CPA allocates funds to upgrade Tinian airport. PAGE 3
Guam's CAR score goes down to ideal level. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 241

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Torres lifts price freeze

» 'CNMI no longer experiencing shortage of goods due to pandemic'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

Noting that the CNMI is no longer experiencing a shortage of goods caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday lifted the price freeze, about nine months after the CNMI closed its borders in mid-March.

See TORRES on Page 4

LET THERE BE LIGHT

If you haven't had the chance to take an evening stroll on the Beach Road Pathway recently, you'll be happy to find that the lights along the Gov. Froilan Tenorio Beach Pathway have now been now repaired. The fixing and/or replacement of the light bulbs were done by the Office of Grants and Management early last month. Also, thanks to the ongoing tree trimming project of the Saipan Mayor's Office, the lights can now be fully seen by drivers who choose to take Beach Road to get to their destinations.

NEIL FAMA

BEFORE FINDING BROWNE IN CONTEMPT

Court gives IPI one more chance to show cause

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S District Court for the NMI has given Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC

See COURT on Page 4

Face-to-face PUA assistance delayed

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has pushed back the resumption of its face-to-face assistance for the Pandemic Unemployment Assis-

See PUA on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

➤ DOL provides payment info on PUA, FPUC programs. PAGE 6

Zoning board OKs 3 marijuana applications

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board

Former Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita talks about the security and operation features of Saipan Select LLC's proposal to renovate a building in Tanapag for their cannabis farm during a Zoning board meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Wednesday night. Norita is a member of Saipan Select's joint venture in the marijuana industry.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

has approved three companies' proposal to renovate and occupy buildings in Chalan Laulau, Garapan, and Tanapag to operate cannabis or mari-

See ZONING on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Dec. 3, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,920	0	6,920
Recovered	6,005	0	6,005
Active	803	0	803
Deaths	112	0	112
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		85,864	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	106	0	106
Traced via Travel Screening	80	0	80
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		22,633*	
Days since last community transmission		108	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The CHCC COVID-19 dashboard will be undergoing maintenance until further notice.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

SUPPLEMENT
Today's issue comes with a pullout supplement that celebrates Hyatt's 40th anniversary.
PAGE 13

BUSINESS
Michelle Atalig is the winner of the Saipan Chamber's "Buy in the CNMI" campaign.
PAGE 22

OFF THE WALL
New clues have surfaced in the disappearance of a gleaming monolith in a Utah desert.
PAGE 26

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Man pleads guilty to beating his girlfriend

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who beat his girlfriend after she allegedly angered him by saying "what" when he asked her a question has pleaded guilty.

Henry Euphresia Enis, 26, pleaded guilty before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho last Wednesday during a change of plea hearing.

Enis pleaded guilty to one count of assault and battery domestic violence and one count of disturbing the peace domestic violence. One other charge—strangulation—was dropped as part of the plea deal.

According to Enis, he hit his girlfriend during an argument, shouted profanities at her, and pulled her hair.

Camacho sentenced Enis to one-year imprisonment for assault and battery-domestic violence and six months for disturbing the peace-domestic violence.

Enis is to serve a total of 18 months' imprisonment, with 12 months suspended and with credit for time served. After serving his remaining sentence, Enis will be placed on two-year supervised probation and was ordered to pay all court fees, costs, and probation fees.

Enis was also ordered to stay away from his girlfriend but was granted supervised visitation of his children if approved by their mother and the Division of Youth Services in the first year of his probation.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, police responded to a disturbing the peace incident at the couple's residence back on Sept. 21. The victim told police that she was in the kitchen washing dishes when Enis confronted her and asked her what she had said to him, to which she replied; "Nothing. I didn't say anything besides saying 'what,'" she said. Enis then allegedly used his left elbow to hit her right shoulder, causing her to feel pain and made her eyesight blurry.

Later, the victim said she told Enis that she was going to her mom's house in Oleai. The victim said Enis approached her while she was carrying their son, who had a medical condition, and punched, slapped, and kicked her.

She told police that she does not know which hand or foot he used, as he was blocking her face and she was protecting her son. When she managed to put her son down, she said Enis pulled her hair and dragged her on the floor,

See MAN on Next Page

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed today

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. office will be closed today, Dec. 4, 2020, for staff professional development. Regular business hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. ***(PR)***

4.9-magnitude quake in Guam

At 10:18am on Dec. 3, 2020, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 86 kilometers south of Merizo in Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

7 Days Holiday Toy Sale!
DECEMBER 4-10, 20% ON ALL TOYS
LAYAWAYS WELCOME
Toys & Clothes
for children ages 0 to 10
LOLLIPOPS
BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Mon-Sat: 9am to 6pm & Sun: 10am to 4pm
TEL: 234-8040
Like us on Facebook

CPA allocates funds to upgrade Tinian airport

Steel Worker 3rd Class Bryce Thompson, from New Castle, Ind., assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, cuts and measures reinforcing steel in preparation for a concrete placement on Camp Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/CE3 MARCUS HENLEY

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantri bune.com
REPORTER

Using the $21.9 million that the Commonwealth Ports Authority got from the U.S. Department of Defense for its lease of a planned divert airfield on Tinian, CPA has set aside $20 million of that amount to upgrade the Tinian International Airport so it can accept international flights, while $1.9 million will be used for the Tinian seaport to upgrade the facility.

In an interview with CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she stated that the money has yet to be touched, but the interest that has been building up, is not "hundreds of thousands of dollars," as some have presumed, but only a few hundred dollars.

According to King-Hinds, it's always been a goal for Tinian's airport to accept international flights but the facility is not "very conducive" to landing international flights, which means it's not suitable for international flights.

"The way the current terminal is designed makes it difficult, inconvenient, and inefficient to house both commuter and international flights. The terminal needs to not only support federal structures but address impact on commuter travel, which should be conducive to having a quick turnaround time," said King-Hinds.

At first, she said, they thought it would just be federalization and fuel storage capacity, but knowing that both won't be enough, they have to be wise with what they have and how they spend.

When asked about the timeframe on when the Tinian airport will be undergoing these upgrades, King-Hinds stated that they are not going to spend any money until they have something "concrete, something tangible" they can rely on. A study on all the challenges and types of infrastructure they need in order to pursue the goals that are awarded will take at least 18 months, she said.

King-Hinds stated that the Governor's Office and CBMI Construction applied and was awarded a grant that will benefit CPA's request to fund an Intermodal Study looking at their current infrastructure, their financial soundness and capabilities, and their future plans.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, King-Hinds stated that their revenue has gone down and CPA could not 100% fully support its operations. CPA has not furloughed staff, but has reduced hours to 64 hours in order to "stretch out the dollar." This will allow CPA to have room with their finances and will be able to have enough money until the fiscal year ends, next year in October.

As for the planned divert airfield of the U.S. Air Force, engineering teams of the U.S. military are currently on Tinian and are laying the groundwork for the project, such as building barracks for future workers and clearing roads.

MAN

From Page 2

scraping her left knee. The victim said Enis also used his left hand to squeeze her neck, making it hard for her to breathe.

The victim told police that her boyfriend had done the same things to her in previous incidents but she never reported those incidents; this time she was just fed up.

In an interview with Enis, he admitted to punching, kicking, and slapping his girlfriend because she had said something to piss him off.

McDonald's Sweetens Up Breakfast with New Nationwide McCafé® Bakery Lineup
AVAILABLE all day
Blueberry Muffin
A soft and fluffy muffin baked with real blueberries and topped with a streusel crumb topping that goes wonderfully with a Premium Roast Coffee.
McCafé
Cinnamon Roll
Served warm and loaded with cinnamon layered between buttery, flaky pastry dough that is drizzled with a delicious cream cheese icing. This treat pairs best with a Premium Roast Coffee.
Apple Fritters
A classic fritter made with cinnamon and apples fried to a golden brown and covered with a sweet glaze icing. Pair it perfectly with a Premium Roast Coffee.
Order in the App, pass the line with a tap
Three easy steps to order through the McDonald's App
Download the McDonald's App
GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store
Order on your time
Use our App to pick out your favorite McDonald's items a la carte or make a meal.
Pay
Pay using any major payment card. Your card will not be charged until you check in.
Pick up on your terms
Check in at any participating McDonald's restaurant to pick up your meal however you want—get your food brought to you Curbside, avoid the line Inside the Restaurant or grab it in the Drive Thru.
STORE HOURS: GARAPAN EXPRESS OPEN DAILY FROM 6:00AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD OPEN DAILY FROM 6:00AM TO 10:00PM
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

NISSAN 2020 FRONTIER
Starting at
$196* per paycheck
Get $1000 Joeten Shopping GC
this Holiday Season
9 SPEED TRANSMISSION | 310 HP | 3.8L V6 ENGINE
Visit us at
www.joetenmotors.com
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU
TEL. 234-5562 | SHOWROOM HOURS: MON - FRI 8AM - 5PM • SAT 8AM - 12PM
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • While Supplies last.
Like us on Facebook
*2020 FRONTIER S KING CAB 2WD at $33,995 with 20% down, 3.5% APR OAC for 72 months at 26 pay periods per year-deferred financing $30,635

Judy T. Aldan is new Clerk of the NMI Supreme Court

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro has appointed attorney Judy T. Aldan as the Clerk of the CNMI Supreme Court effective Nov. 23, 2020. Aldan fills the vacancy left by attorney Gretchen A. Smith, who accepted a position with the U.S. District for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Originally from Saipan, Aldan returned home after postgraduate studies and practiced law in the CNMI since being admitted to the CNMI Bar in 2008. She previously served as a Criminal Justice Program coordinator and instructor for the Northern Marianas College; an attorney with Torres Brothers, LLC.; and a staff attorney with the CNMI Law Revision Commission.

Aldan is a graduate of Timberline High School in Boise, Idaho. She obtained a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science with an emphasis in American Government and Public Policy from Boise State University in 2004. In 2008, Aldan obtained her juris doctorate degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. She is married to Lucio Aldan, and they have three children.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court may be contacted at (670) 236-9715 or judy.aldan@nmijudiciary.com. ***(PR)***

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro administers the oath of office for Clerk of the Supreme Court Judy T. Aldan before the associate justices, presiding judge and associate judges.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TORRES

From Page 1

"Whereas, the conditions necessitating a price freeze having now passed, it is appropriate to end the price freeze," said Torres in an executive order yesterday that rescinds the amended Executive Order 2020-03.

The governor issued Executive Order 2020-03 on March 5, 2020, declaring a price freeze pursuant to the Commonwealth Disaster Price Freeze Act, and the declaration of major disaster and state of significant emergency. The following day, March 6, Torres amended the executive order and added to the list of items for which prices were frozen. The amended executive order states that the "price freeze shall last until rescinded, or until the declarations of emergency or disaster are terminated, whichever occurs first."

In his latest executive order yesterday, Torres said that, nine months since first ordering the price freeze, many CNMI businesses have adapted new supply chains to bring products to the CNMI

With the ready availability of products, the threat of shortages and price gouging no longer threatens the community, he added.

The governor earlier disclosed that he had talked with Attorney General Edward Manibusan about the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's request to lift the price freeze.

Torres' Executive Order 2020-03 that declared the price freeze was meant to protect CNMI residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Torres had said that protecting the health and safety of CNMI residents includes protecting their ability to provide for their families during this unanticipated economic downturn as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

COURT

From Page 1

one more chance to show cause—or to explain in writing—why its CEO should not be found in contempt and incarcerated because of IPI's noncompliance with court orders.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order last Wednesday stating that IPI must show cause in writing, no later than today, Dec. 4, why the court should not find IPI CEO Donald R. Browne in contempt for IPI's failure to comply with court orders.

The court also wants IPI to explain why they should not enter an order demanding Browne to personally pay a fine of $500 per day until the fee award order is paid in full; that if a certification that the fee award order is not filed within seven days of this order, the U.S. Marshals shall take Browne into custody until the court determines that the fee award order has been paid in full; and why the court should not find IPI in contempt for its failure to comply with the fee award order.

The court allowed the plaintiffs—the seven former construction workers represented by Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline—to file a response by Monday, Dec. 7.

Manglona set a hearing for Dec. 10, at 9am.

As a sanction for IPI's noncompliance with its discovery obligations and prior orders of the court, the court ordered IPI on Aug. 25 to pay the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees in the amount of $93,834.25 within 30 days, by Sept. 24.

On Sept. 18, one week before that deadline, IPI filed a motion requesting an extension of time to pay, which was supported by a declaration from its CEO, Browne. The court granted a 30-day extension, ordering IPI to pay the full amount no later than Oct. 24, and make interim payments as soon as funds are available.

The court noted that, "as discussed in prior proceedings, IPI does have assets in the CNMI that could be liquidated so that its lawful debts can be satisfied."

The court stated that no further extensions would be granted because the court had previously notified IPI of the possibility of needing to liquidate some of its assets or direct available cash flow to satisfy court orders rather than paying other expenses.

Despite the court granting this additional time to IPI, and again instructing IPI to liquidate assets if needed to comply with the court's orders, IPI did not make even a partial payment of the fee award.

IPI also did not file any notice or explanation with the court prior to Oct. 24, let alone describe any efforts to liquidate its assets.

On Oct. 27, plaintiffs filed a "Notice of Noncompliance by Defendant IPI" informing the court that IPI had failed to comply with the fee award order. IPI still has not filed any response or explanation.

The court further notes that IPI has violated numerous prior discovery-related orders, which resulted in the court finding IPI in civil contempt, ordering that it pay a fine of $2,000 per day, and later entering a default judgment against IPI.

Despite the imposition of the $2,000-per-day sanction, which continues to accrue, IPI still has not complied with the court's prior orders.

"In other words, monetary sanctions against IPI have proven insufficient to compel its directors and executives to take the steps necessary to comply with the orders of the court," Manglona stated.

PUA

From Page 1

tance program.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said that, despite previously stating that they would resume face-to-face assistance, the department has opted to put this on hold and continue with virtual assistance.

"PUA headquarters is open only for assistance via telephone or email. Rarely do we need to meet with a PUA applicant. Instead, we are communicating only online or phone to safeguard against COVID-19," she said.

However, Benavente said DOL will meet with some PUA applicants on a case-by-case basis.

In relation to PUA, Benavente said DOL and the Department of Finance are processing Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation disbursements using the funds they received from the U.S. Department of Labor on Thanksgiving Day last week. DOL initially held back from issuing FPUC benefits as they awaited additional funding from USDOL.

"Unfortunately, we had to hold back on paying FPUC claims because of the amount in the accounts. I want to make sure that we have more than enough for FPUC. I don't want to pay just 1,000 applicants. I want to pay all the applicants as we move forward with this funding process with U.S. DOL," she said.

DOL recently received an additional $27,574,600 for the FPUC program.

CNMI DOL learned on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, 2020, that it met federal reporting requirements for obtaining the additional $27.5 million in FPUC funding.

"The eligible PUA claimants will be receiving FPUC benefits, either by direct deposit or paper check, within the next few weeks. Claimants who opted for paper checks will be contacted by DOL to confirm their mailing address and to confirm if they wish to pick up their check instead of DOL mailing the check. The PUA claimants will be given a pickup date and time by the DOL staff. We ask that claimants do not visit the DOL offices, unless they are contacted by DOL staff. It's imperative that we continue to follow the safety and health protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the CNMI," Benavente said.

ZONING

From Page 1

juana farms, a retail store, and for lounge use.

Saipan Tribune learned that the next Zoning board meeting will also be likely all be about companies interested in venturing into the marijuana industry.

At the Zoning board public hearing Wednesday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, board chair Tatiana Babauta, vice chair Francisco Aguon, treasurer Perry A. Inos Jr., and members Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. and Kevin Guerrero, voted in favor of the proposals of Slider Marianas, Green Light Inc., and Saipan Select LLC.

Slider Marianas, which does business as T-Marianas, plans to put up a cannabis farm at the first floor of a two-story building in Chalan Laulau, which is zoned as mixed commercial district.

Green Light Inc., which does business as The Chronic, wants to establish a cannabis retail store and lounge at a preexisting one-story structure in Garapan, an area zoned as Garapan East District.

Saipan Select LLC plans to have a cannabis farm on the first floor of a preexisting one-story building in Tanapag, an area zoned as mixed commercial district.

Zoning administrator Geralyn C. Dela Cruz said the zoning staff has concluded the review of the companies' proposed use for conditional permit and finds it acceptable to the amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

Dela Cruz said the Zoning staff recommends approval of the companies' conditional use application if conditions are met. Among the conditions are that the applicants shall comply with requirements of all regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the projects, shall employ measures to control the noise level from reaching unacceptable levels beyond its property lines, and shall ensure that its operation does not generate noise, odor, light, and dust that will affect the neighborhood.

Inos moved to approve the approval of the companies' proposals. All board members voted in favor to approve the applications.

Scott Malin of Saipan Select LLC said they are basically an indoor farm that will renovate a one-story structure that will be climate-controlled.

Malin said Claudio K. Norita will be addressing the security of their operation. Norita, who is a former Department of Public Safety commissioner, said he is partnering with Malin, John Doyle, and Chris Cook for this venture.

Norita said the building itself is going to have 16 cameras, access locks, access controls, locking system, alarm system, and fire alarm system. "We have a perimeter fence around already. We're going to upgrade to a chain link fence," he said.

Doyle said it's actually a fairly attractive building, that one of the things that caught their attention is that there's a lot of work into getting legislation passed so that they can do this.

He said their idea from the start has been to put out a classy operation.

"The building itself is sound, the structure is solid, security will be tight," he said.

Doyle said they hope tourists who go to the Grotto will stop by their premises on their way back.

He said they're really excited to be one of the starters of this industry.

Board member Deleon Guerrero thanked all the applicants for investing in the marijuana industry and for helping the CNMI possibly improve and jumpstart the economy and make it stronger.

"So I really appreciate how you guys are risking your money, so to say. I hope that…it works out for all of you," Deleon Guerrero said.

Meanwhile, Zoning is going to revisit the conditional use application of Marianas Hemp Farms, which is proposing to renovate and occupy the first floor of a preexisting three-story building in Puerto Rico for its cannabis farm use.

The Puerto Rico area is zoned as mixed commercial district.

Administrator Dela Cruz said that on the Zoning side, Marianas Hemp Farms did not meet the required postings. However, Dela Cruz said, she was just informed that it was a miscommunication because of a power outage.

"So this is something that we can really rectify, it's minimal. It's just a small error," she said.

Last October, the board granted Tuu Group LLC's proposal to renovate and occupy two buildings in Garapan, including the former GIG Discotheque, for its cannabis or marijuana retail stores and lounges.

The board previously approved the applications for cannabis farming for Tuu Group in As Mahetog, Primo Farms on Capital Hill, and Marianas Hemps Farms in As Teo.

IRONING BRD RDY PRSS BLUE $30.00

GLASS 3PC BOWL SET $15.00

STAINLESS STEEL POT 28 CM $30.00

CONTAINER EASY FIND 1.25C RUBB $3.00

MENS WORK PANT $10.00

BOYS SCREEN TEE SHIRTS $8.00

GIRLS SOLID TEES BY CUTIE $5.00

LADIES DRESS $10.00

AQUA GLOBES 2PK $5.00

KN-95 PROTECTIVE MASK $3.00

THREE LAYER MASK $30.00

NATURE HAND SANITIZER 3.4 OZ $4.00

MEDIX HAND SANITIZING WIPES FRESH 80S $3.00

ADVIL PAIN RELIEVER 50 CT $6.00

ORAL-B TOOTHBRUSH SHNY CLN 99¢

KING WHITE SHEET SET $15.00

MULTI COLOR FLOOR MAT $1.50

SHOWER CURTAIN PRINT 70x72 13PC $6.99

HOODED TOWEL SET 7 PC $3.50

DISNEY EMB FLEECE BABY BLANKET $3.00

2020 HOLIDAY SAVINGS SALE

Friday,December 4 to Monday, December 7, 2020

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20# $10.99

CHICKEN BREAST BONELESS SKINLESS $2.49/lb.

HOFFY DELITE BACON 12oz $2.99

CHUCKWAGON CHICKEN HOTDOGS 1# $1.19

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz $1.49 ea.

SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44# $20.99

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50# $29.99

KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR $4.99 ea.

JOETEN HAND SANITIZER FLIP TOP 100ml 99¢ ea.

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk $2.99

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

CODI DECO TOILET TISSUE 30rolls $13.99

DIAMOND ALUMINUM FOIL 37.5sq HD $2.99

EED NAPKIN 120ct 99¢

EED RED GREEN DINNER PLATES 15ct 99¢

NESTLE CREAM MEDIA CREMA 7.6oz $1.99

PENNANT FRUIT CAKE MX 16oz $2.99

PIK NIK SHOE STRING 1.75z 69¢ ea.

TESSA PAPER TOWEL 3RL X 70SH $1.99

WHITE CASTLE LCW ASSRTD FLAVORS 300g $2.99 ea.

GENERAL M CEREAL ASSRTD FLAVORS 12z $1.99 ea.

U.S. APPLE FUJI WASH/LB $1.99

U.S. POTATO RUSSETT/ IDAHO (S) 79¢

U.S. ORANGE CHOICE/FANCY $1.19

U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 1DZ/TRY $1.99

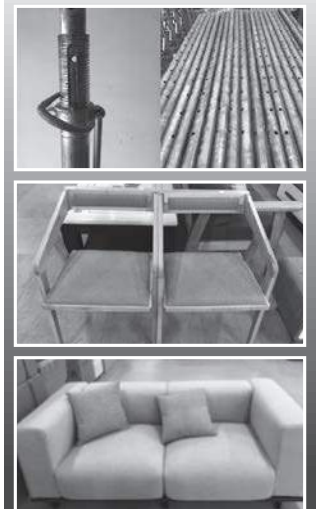
Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876

Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE
ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

DOL provides payment info on PUA, FPUC programs

The CNMI Department of Labor is providing the public with the latest payment updates regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs in the Marianas.

Payment cycle information

All PUA and FPUC benefits payments are disbursed on scheduled payment cycles. All direct deposit (also known as ACH deposit) benefits beginning in late July until mid-October of this year are slated for disbursement in the month of December. All paper check benefits beginning in late July through September 2020 have been mailed, disbursed in-person, or voided due to incorrect claimant information or fraudulent activity. PUA claimants who have any questions about the payment of unemployment benefits are encouraged to contact the PUA Call Center at the numbers listed in this announcement.

CNMI DOL and the Department of Finance will continue to issue paper checks and process ACH payments even after the end of the PUA and FPUC application period on Dec. 26, 2020, contingent on the availability of funding from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Payment disbursements

As of Nov. 18, 2020, CNMI DOL and CNMI DOF have disbursed upwards of $108.4 million in PUA and FPUC benefits to eligible claimants. That number is set to increase by approximately $26.3 million, barring any returns due to bank rejections, overpayments, or fraudulent applications.

Direct Deposit Disbursements. Eligible claimants who fall under certain payment cycles, and who have opted to receive PUA benefits via direct deposit generally receive their benefits within seven to 10 business days. This type of disbursement continues to be the safest and most expeditious way eligible claimants can receive their unemployment benefits.

Paper Check Disbursements. Eligible claimants who fall under certain payment cycles, and who have opted to receive PUA benefits via paper check generally receive their benefits within two to three weeks after vetting by the CNMI DOL. More than 8,000 paper checks have been reviewed and verified by CNMI DOL. In addition, thousands of fraudulent checks have been intercepted and voided that were made out to non-CNMI claimants. It remains the obligation of the CNMI DOL to ensure that the integrity of the program remains intact and will therefore continue to verify all paper checks.

Payment delays

Bank Rejections and Violations. In early September, many PUA claimants who opted for direct deposit payments were switched to paper check payments as a result of numerous rejections from local banking institutions. Serious concerns involving the potential disruption of the CNMI government's financial management system warranted the initial switch from direct deposit to paper checks. The switch back to direct deposits occurred on Oct. 29, 2020, after much deliberation of applicable ACH regulations and banking requirements.

Fraudulent Activity. After an initial CNMI DOL audit of paper check payments, findings concluded that more than 1,000 checks were made out to non-CNMI claimants. As a result, and due to the department's obligation to ensure that no benefits payments were issued to ineligible applicants, the department made efforts to flag all claimants with non-CNMI physical or mailing addresses and offshore accounts on hiremarianas.com. The department has also increased its staffing with the Benefits Payment Control Unit to monitor and seize all fraudulent payouts.

FPUC Funding. On Oct. 29, 2020, CNMI DOL received supplemental FPUC funding from the U.S. Department of Labor for $8 million. This amount was sufficient for all FPUC payments through the Sept. 22 payment cycle. All FPUC payments after the Sept. 22 cycle were on hold. As of Thanksgiving Day, the CNMI DOL has been awarded an additional $27.5 million, which is sufficient to cover payment cycles through the month of November.

Overpayments/fraud collections

As of Nov. 30, 2020, the Benefits Payment Control Unit has identified 625 overpayment cases worth over $5.5 million. Overpayment activity typically occurs when claimants do not report wage earnings correctly or when claimants commit fraud to obtain PUA benefits.

Of the 625 overpayment cases, 166 cases have been identified by the BPC Unit as out of state/territory cases. Approximately $1,821,518.31 in fraudulent claims have been intercepted and cut off by the BPC Unit. Since its inception, the BPC Unit has successfully collected $1,153,659.63 in PUA and $1,532,110.95 in FPUC benefits, totaling $2,686,770.58.

Individuals are encouraged to call 670-989-9095 to report any perceived instances of wrongdoing or fraud pertaining to PUA/FPUC.

Individuals who willfully conceal material facts or knowingly making false statement(s) to obtain PUA to which they are not entitled will be required to repay all benefits fraudulently collected and may be subject to prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Further information

Individuals who file a PUA claim will receive information about their benefit rights and responsibilities. To remain eligible for PUA, individuals must continue to meet all eligibility requirements and conditions found in the *PUA and FPUC Benefits Rights Information Handbook.* The department encourages all applicants to read and understand their unemployment rights. To obtain a copy of the PUA and FPUC handbook, visit www.marianaslabor.net and click on "Forms & Publications" or request a copy from the CNMI Department of Labor, Employment Services Division located at building 1334, Capital Hill Saipan.

General program inquiries

Individuals who have questions about the PUA/FPUC programs are encouraged to contact the CNMI DOL via email at info@puamarianas.com or call the following numbers between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday: 322-8870, 322-8872, 322-8874, 322-8877, 322-8879, 322-8871, 322-8873, 322-8876, 322-8878, or 322-8880. ***(PR)***

WEBINAR SERIES
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
AMERICA'S SBDC GUAM
HOW TO MARKET YOUR BUSINESS
DATE:
December 9, 2020
TIME:
8:00am-10:00am
FREE OF CHARGE

Angelica Camacho-Paulino,
GUAM SBDC Business Advisor/BOG WIB Program Coordinator
TO REGISTER:
HTTPS://PISBDCN.ECENTERDIRECT.COM/EVENTS/4690
This training will be conducted via Zoom. Upon registration you will be given the Zoom Meeting ID and Password to be able to join the webinar training. Please note that you will need a laptop or iPad to join.
For more information, visit our website at www.pacificsbdc.com or call CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018.
Disclaimer: The CNMI Small Business Development Center (CNMI SBDC)is a member of the University of Guam Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center (PISBDCN). PISBDCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact CNMI SBDC Nicole Babauta, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Free medical mission on Dec. 13

The Saipan Pacific Lions Club will be holding a medical mission on Dec. 13, 2020, at the Daidai Social Hall of the Mount Carmel Cathedral. It will provide medical, dental and optical services, among others, to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One of its major services is to provide free prescription eyeglasses for those diagnosed with poor eyesight. Other services that will be available to everyone interested are free medical consultation, dental examination, blood pressure testing, blood sugar/glucose testing, cancer awareness, and general health awareness that will improve and maintain a healthy life.

Alongside with its medical mission, the club, through its officers and members, would also launch and deploy receptacles in various points throughout Saipan where interested individuals could drop off and donate their used eyeglasses and sunglasses. These used eyeglasses would be delivered to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers where volunteers clean, sort by grade, test and package the glasses for distribution under the "Lion Recycle for Sight Program."

"We would soon announce the place where you can donate or drop off your used eyeglasses," the club said in a statement. ***(PR)***

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      1) August 31, 2020 – Regular Meeting
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
V. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. Contract for Professional Services – Legal Counsel
   b. Licensing Matters
      1. Bridge Investment Group LLC. – Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Casino License Fee
      2. Matsui Asia Ltd.
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VII. **OFFICIAL/MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Attention CNMI Government Employees, Retirees and Surviving Spouses

It's Open Enrollment time

Open enrollment runs Monday, November 16 — Friday, December 18

We're honored to continue delivering health insurance coverage and well-being resources to CNMI Government active employees, retirees, surviving spouses and your families throughout this challenging year and beyond.

Our goal is to provide you with access to the highest levels of care and support possible through our:

- Strong local presence, in partnership with Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
- Comprehensive global resources
- 24/7 Member Service Support

Due to COVID-19 your enrollment experience looks different this year.
But don't worry ... we've got you covered.

Your health and safety are paramount. That's why we're doing Open Enrollment a little differently this year:

- We're adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols and government regulations
- Visit the websites listed below to view your Open Enrollment material and enrollment/change of status form to help you choose the best plan for you and your loved ones
- Open Enrollment support will be available by phone (in-person meetings will be limited to appointment only)

After reviewing your plan options and premium cost share, if you're satisfied with your current plan and coverage, you DO NOT need to submit an enrollment form. Your current benefits will be rolled over into the new plan year and you'll continue to use your current Member ID card.

However, if after reading through your Open Enrollment material you'd like additional support, we will be happy to help:

- For Open Enrollment inquiries, contact Pacifica locally at: **670-234-6267** Monday — Friday, 8 AM-5 PM
- For non-OE related inquiries, contact our Member Service Center 24/7 at: **800-231-7729**

Websites to help you choose a plan:

- Aetna International: **www.AetnaInternational.com/cnmi-ghli**
- CNMI Dept of Finance: **www.dof.gov.mp**
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.: **www.pacificains.com/ghlit**

Upon completing an Enrollment/Change of Status Form, deliver your Form and any required documentation:

- Active employees: to your respective Agency/Department of Human Resources
- Retirees and surviving spouses: to Pacifica located in the Joeten Shopping Center, Insatto St., Susupe

Open enrollment runs Monday, November 16 — Friday, December 18.

AetnaInternational.com

46.12.334.1-AP (11/20)

aetna™

Shell V-Power

TOGETHER, WE ARE UNBEATABLE

Get Double PACIFICPOINTS with all V-Power Fuel Purchases.

*See store for details. For more information regarding the new loyalty program, download the PACIFICPOINTS mobile app on your phone or visit www.pacificpoints.com.

GO WELL

32ND ANNUAL

CLUB 200

Wild About the Red Cross

Grand Prize
JOETEN ACE HARDWARE
$10,000 Gift Card

American Red Cross
Northern Mariana Islands

TICKETS: $50.00

Virtual event will live stream on
Saturday, December 19, 2020

Buy your tickets today at www.redcross.org/club200

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS

Thai restaurant manager pleads guilty in cocaine case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Spicy Thai restaurant manager and executive assistant Jeane Bracken pleaded guilty Wednesday to the allegations against her involving the distribution of cocaine in the CNMI.

Bracken pleaded guilty before U.S District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute a schedule II-controlled substance.

The maximum sentence for the charge is 20 years imprisonment, a maximum fine of $1 million, a maximum three-year term of supervised release, and a special $100 penalty assessment.

The court scheduled Bracken to return to court on April 14, 2021.

Both Bracken and her co-defendant, Robert Wallace, were charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

According to court documents, CNMI Customs Division personnel stationed at the U.S. Postal Service office came upon a suspicious parcel on Oct. 21. The parcel, a small, USPS "Priority Mail" box, was found to contain a clear zip-lock baggie labeled Walgreens containing a white, powdery substance, which was further contained inside a vacuum-sealed clear bag labeled FoodSaver, which was concealed within a black tank-top style shirt. CNMI Customs contacted U.S Drug Enforcement Administration for assistance. The substance was field tested and yielded positive results for the presence of cocaine and weighed at 4.2 grams. The active ingredient was removed and replaced with a "sham" that looked like cocaine.

The box was later issued to a mail service in Garapan. Upon contacting the manager of the mail service, investigators were provided with the application data for the private mailbox, which showed that the box was registered to a person with initials B.S who departed Saipan back in March but provided his key to a friend who was later identified as Suspect 1.

A controlled delivery was organized on Oct. 28 at around 2:06pm. Suspect 1 arrived at the mail services store to retrieve the box that contained the sham cocaine.

At 2:08pm, Suspect 1 left the store with investigators tailing him and he brought them to his apartment on Navy Hill.

When Suspect 1 exited his vehicle, investigators and DEA officers approached him and after identifying themselves, detained him and transported him to DEA office.

In an interview with Suspect 1, he admitted that he had a postal service box of his own but used his friend's, B.S., mailbox to receive other items like marijuana that was ordered back in September for his "psychological issues."

Suspect 1 later identified Bracken as the person who was ordering the items off of the "dark web" and he was using his friend's mailbox because he didn't want the items shipped under his name.

Suspect 1 initially told investigators that he thought there would be marijuana in the box and that he didn't know the parcel contained cocaine and that he had nothing to do with it. However, after further investigation, he admitted that they were expecting cocaine in the parcel.

The suspect told investigators that Bracken ordered the drugs and determined who got what between the two of them and anyone else they might supply. After initial denial, he admitted he would typically get a portion of the shipment or a good price on the cocaine.

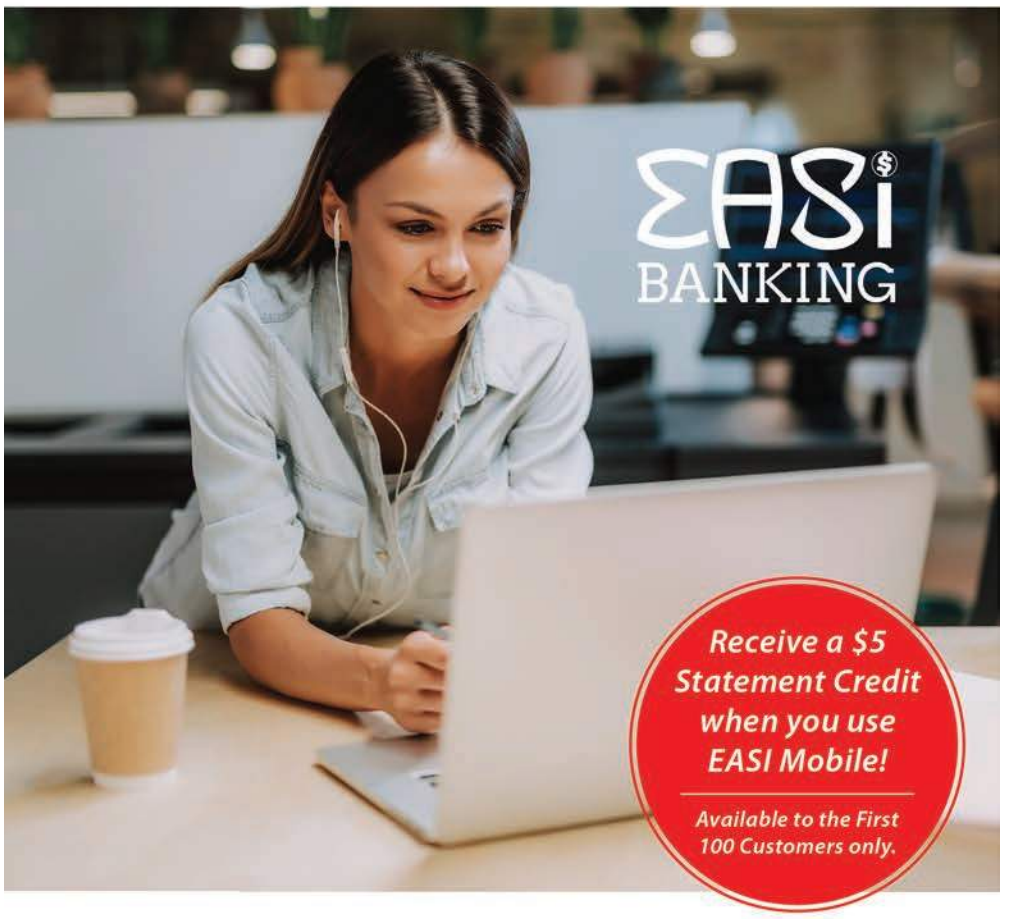
A consensual review of Suspect 1's mobile device also showed incriminating messages between him and Bracken about the parcel and other drug shipments, including drug amounts, deliveries, and drug types.

Investigators instructed Suspect 1 to send Bracken a message to meet at Bracken's work to deliver the parcel to her.

At 4:22pm, investigators observed Suspect 1 park next to Bracken's work. At 4:23pm, Bracken approached Suspect 1's vehicle and went to the driver's side to retrieve the package. Investigators detained Bracken after the transfer was completed.

BANK OF SAIPAN
Online Banking Has Never Been This EASi

Now more than ever, it's important to have the ability to do your banking from the comfort and safety of your home or almost anywhere you can practice social distancing.



Visit www.bankofsaipan.com and enroll in EASi Banking from your desktop, laptop or handheld device. Within minutes you can enjoy these features!

- View and download your account history.
- View account balances and check images.
- Transfer funds to existing Bank of Saipan accounts and accounts at other financial institutions.
- Go green and receive eStatements.
- Send and receive secure email to Customer Service regarding your accounts and/or other products or services.
- Pay bills without having to stand in line!

BANKOFSAIPAN.COM

Bank of Saipan deposits are insured by a private payment guaranty, which pays up to $250,000 per account. Bank of Saipan is not federally insured.

Customers First TRIPLE J
Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store
OVERSTOCKED SALE
SATURDAY, 5 DEC. 2020 • 8AM-9PM

Chairs
76x65x56 cm 4 per box
$29.95

Chair
82x67x52 cm
$29.95

Beach chair
with cushion White & Blue
$129.95

Chair
with cushion
$179.95

Klem Furniture Headboard
King
Queen
$99.95

Beach chair
with cushion White
$129.95

Yekalon
Double toilet paper holder PI YS33763
$19.95

Bobrick
Bathroom paper towel dispenser
$39.95

Bobrick
Bathroom tissue dispenser
$14.95

Ashley
Lighting Lamp Shade only
2pcs per box
$19.95

Egg Swing Chair
$159.95

Lamp Works
Lamp shade with bulb
$19.95

Yekalon Glass Shelf PI YS33763 $14.95

Business, Hotel, Office & Home
Items may not be exactly as shown and sold as is.
ONE DAY SALE! + More!

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 241
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Time for compromise

Democrats and Republicans in Congress both claim they want to pass a new federal stimulus bill before President-elect Joe Biden takes office Jan. 20. The only question is whether lawmakers can find the political will to compromise on a relief package that is desperately needed as coronavirus cases surge nationwide.

With the Senate and the House of Representatives back in session for the final days of the 116th Congress (new members will be sworn in Jan. 3), it would seem that both parties would be motivated to find common ground on a relief package. But the issues that have stalled a stimulus bill previously still remain: the size and scope of the package, and whether most Americans will receive a second round of stimulus checks.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and fellow Democrats have been pushing for passage of their $2.2 trillion Heroes Act that includes additional unemployment benefits for millions of Americans as well as a second stimulus check of $1,200.

Republicans, led by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, want something much smaller, in the range of about $500 million.

Where is President Donald Trump in all of this? It's hard to say. Prior to the election he suggested a total spending plan of $1.9 trillion—remarkably close to the Democrats' proposal—but has since backed off. Two weeks ago, he tweeted that a bill should be passed, but said only that it should be "big" and "focused."

It's time for the real leaders to step forward and work on a compromise package because the alarming rise in coronavirus cases presents another threat to the already skittish economy. If more restrictions and limitations are enacted to slow the spread of the virus—as has already happened in many states—it could mean even more job losses and another rise in the unemployment rate that stood at 6.9% at the end of October.

Compromise has taken on a negative connotation in politics over the years as both parties have dug in, often on ideological grounds. But compromise is not only necessary, it has been a mainstay of the American political process since the founding of the republic. Great leaders through the years have long recognized the need to compromise as a way to get things done—and that is what's needed now.

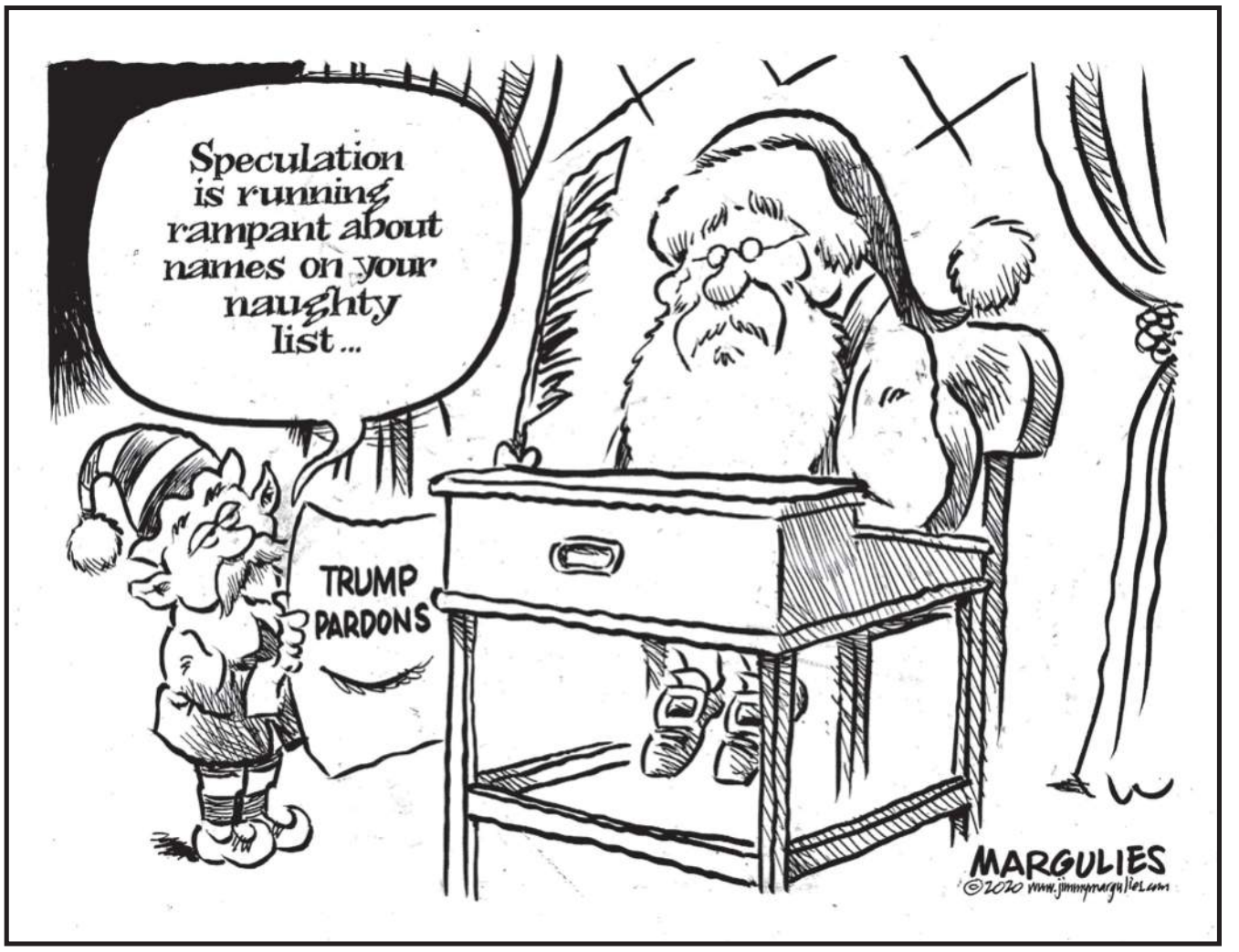
There's a big gap between the $2.2 trillion Democratic proposal and the $500 million suggested by Republicans. That leaves plenty of room for compromise that would provide much-needed assistance to the nearly 12 million Americans who are out of work and the numerous industries that are teetering on the financial edge.

While some may argue that the promising results of COVID-19 vaccines means the end is near and a big relief package is unnecessary, the reality is that most Americans won't be able to get an approved vaccine for another six months or longer. Assistance is needed now.

Both sides have points on which they agree: enhanced unemployment benefits, extending the Paycheck Protection Program and aid for the airline industry. A second stimulus check even has some bipartisan support.

It's time to put aside politics and use the power of compromise to come up with a relief package for Americans in need.

(c) *2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



Debunking the myths of COVID's spread; hint: younger kids aren't the problem

By CHRIS JANETOPOULOS
THE BALTIMORE SUN

In November, the American Academy of Pediatrics announced that more than 1 million children in the United States have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Politicians are calling for closures and lockdowns in response to this crisis, but often they are focusing on shutting down sporting events and schools for our nation's children.

What's wrong with this approach? Data strongly suggest that indoor restaurants and bars, along with private indoor social gatherings, are the primary driver of the increase in infections. Importantly, studies tell us that COVID-19 is not spread easily outdoors and that children are not spreaders of this disease.

It is understandable that leaders making health decisions for our communities need to do so quickly and prefer not have people getting sick or worse on their watch. But there are details about the spread of this virus that need to be made clear to the public.

First, COVID-19 is not spread by larger droplets, but by tiny aerosols, according to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, and others. Numerous studies have shown that COVID-19 infection occurs through these airborne aerosols, with most particles around 5 microns in size, just larger than your typical bacterial cell. The Centers for Disease Control still claims droplets are more responsible for infections, although they recently changed their guidelines to include aerosols. Droplets fall to the ground quickly if not intercepted, and it is difficult to get infected from inanimate surfaces or objects, known as fomites, with COVID-19. Washing hands and the disinfection of surfaces does little to mitigate the spread of this virus. Again, this is why masks should be focused on and are so critical for COVID-19 and, likely, influenza (the flu).

It is difficult to find documented cases of people catching COVID-19 outside. Protests this summer appear to have had no effect on transmission, and it has been the large indoor political gatherings that have led to outbreaks. Centers for Disease Control guidance suggests at least 15 minutes of exposure to become infected, which is based on being indoors. However, the Centers for Disease Control guidelines should be clearer on this point. Importantly, because an aerosol can travel long distances within a room, you may be further than 6 feet from someone indoors and still become infected. Grandma and grandpa are not safe at Thanksgiving if they are sitting on the opposite side of the room without a mask! When outside, the probability of inhaling a viral dosage leading to infection is low, since the virus quickly disperses into the surrounding air. It is very safe at the beach or park.

Given our understanding of transmission, focus should be on stopping the spread indoors in restaurants, bars and social gatherings. People need to support our restaurants, but do it through outdoor seating or ordering carryout. Citizens should feel safe to go to businesses where masks are mandated, which should be all indoor businesses where eating and drinking are not part of the visit. Masks should also be mandated in indoor gyms. It will be a travesty if gyms are closed since exercise boosts your immune response.

Additionally, the data is telling us that preadolescents are not infectious. If children aren't infectious and hardly ever show symptoms, then maybe we shouldn't be preventing them from attending school or indoor winter sports. We would expect to be able to find unequivocal examples where a preadolescent child brought the virus home and spread it to other household members who never left the house. There just aren't examples of this, suggesting it rarely happens. This means teachers should not be afraid of preadolescent children infecting them.

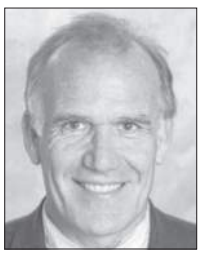
Lastly, several studies this month show that children and adolescents have very different immune responses to COVID-19, which likely contributes to them being resistant to infection, and if infected, being less ill and eliminating the virus quickly. This may also lower their chance of being infectious and needs to be determined, as it also has implications for immunizations, which are critical to preventing the pandemic. We may find that children won't benefit from vaccinations, unless belonging to a group that is high risk for illness and complications, and these considerations need to go into clinical trials.

These decisions are taking a tremendous toll on kids and their families and it is not good for the country or the economy. As a scientist, parent, coach and now someone that has a ton of Girl Scout cookies that I am going to end up eating because outdoor booths were closed, I would like to see further reasonable and data driven debate on outdoor activities and locking down our children.

Chris Janetopoulos (c.janetopoulos@usciences.edu) is an associate professor of biological sciences and co-director of the BioImaging Core Facility at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Progressives are no longer defenders of free expression



By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON
Tribune News Service

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won*, from Basic Books. You can reach him by emailing authorvdh@gmail.com.*

A half-century ago, progressives used to push limitless free expression, blasting conservatives for their allegedly blinkered traditionalism. They boasted of obliterating once-normal boundaries in art, music and literature to allow nudity, profanity, sexuality and anti-American boilerplate.

Now?

The left is Victorian—increasingly puritanical, regressive and hypersensitive. Even totalitarian censorship and book-burning have weirdly become part of their by-any-means-necessary methods.

University of California, Berkeley, professor Grace Lavery was so outraged by author Abigail Shrier's latest book, "Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters," that she went we beyond the usual calls to ban the book. Lavery advocated burning Shrier's book.

"I DO encourage followers to steal Abigail Shrier's book and burn it on a pyre," Lavery tweeted last month.

Did the self-appointed liberal watchdog the American Civil Liberties Union step in to defend free expression?

No. One ACLU official poured gas on the book-burning fire.

"Stopping the circulation of this book and these ideas is 100% a hill I will die on," tweeted Chase Strangio, the ACLU's deputy director for transgender justice.

Note all of these melodramatic humanitarian verbs such as "steal," "burn" and "die."

Staffers at the Canadian branch of Penguin Random House recently confronted management over the company's publication of libertarian Jordan Peterson's new book "Beyond Order," a sequel to his earlier best-seller "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos."

What were their objections to the book? Peterson, who has criticized the notion of white privilege and contends that masculinity is under attack, was accused of "white supremacy," "hate speech" and "transphobia." These are simply our generation's synonyms for their predecessors' bogeyman labels "heretic," "witch" and "communist."

Amazon, Facebook, Google and Twitter are more refined in suppressing books, films, communications and ideas they don't like—and don't want others to like either.

Author Alex Berenson self-published a series of pamphlets on Amazon that offer a dissenting view about the efficacy of forced coronavirus lockdowns. Suddenly, Amazon blocked his most recent installment—at least until public pressure forced the multibillion-dollar company to relent.

Amazon did something similar to Hoover Institution senior fellow Shelby Steele, declining to stream his documentary "What Killed Michael Brown?" about the fatal 2014 shooting of Brown by police in Ferguson, Missouri, and race relations in America. Once again, public outrage forced the company to back down from what appears to be a systematic and ideologically driven effort to stop the dissemination of books and films that don't advance the progressive/regressive cause.

Note the pattern here. Publishers and platforms are not arguing that these books and films are mediocre. After all, they had initially agreed to publish or disseminate all of them.

Their subsequent flips and flops arise from fundamentalist progressive pressure of the sort used by social media to de-platform and cancel unwelcome politics and ideology.

So the First Amendment of the once freest nation in the world is comatose. This time its enemies are not hooded Klansmen seeking to intimidate African Americans or right-wing conspiracy theorists rooting out supposed communists.

No, the culprits are progressives and leftist elites in publishing, the media, Silicon Valley, academia, entertainment and government. They so lack confidence in the logic and persuasiveness of their own arguments that in fear they increasingly try to ban whatever bothers them.

The classic "To Kill a Mockingbird" and other books about racial issues were banned from the curriculum in the Burbank (California) Unified School District last month.

The left did not just oppose the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh; it sought to destroy his career and reputation through smears.

Professors at Stanford University hounded Hoover Institution fellow and public health expert Dr. Scott Atlas. His apparent crime was advising President Trump that lockdowns and quarantines might ultimately cause more damage than COVID-19 itself. Atlas resigned from his role as Trump's coronavirus adviser earlier this week.

Efforts to censor, cancel, discredit or destroy the work of anyone with contrasting viewpoints are canonized by the wealthy, powerful left-wing elites and their institutions.

In Orwellian fashion, they have redefined being illiberal and vindictive as being woke, enlightened and progressive—and for the public good rather than their own interests.

How ironic that the kindred spirits of today's progressives are not Socrates, Galileo and Harper Lee, but the Athenian mob, Joseph McCarthy and the Taliban.

Past and present, all of these zealots and character assassins cloaked their intolerance in the pretense that they were advancing truth—by destroying it.

Tragic Trumpty Tweeter Tales

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

Lies and Rot Tweets Mattered Not

"Politic, cautious, and meticulous;
Full of high sentence, but a bit obtuse;
At times, indeed, almost ridiculous
Almost, at times, the Fool." (T.S. Eliot, 1888-1965)

Squawking Sounds of D.J. Trumpedupe

Let us turn then, you and me
To the computer screen and see what we will see
Like any other computer nerd
Let's scroll through multitudinous repeats
Of completely idiotic tweets
Of demandings and misunderstandings

I'm getting forgetful, I grow numb
My neural synapses no longer hum
Should I cover the hole behind my head
Try smarter sleeping on Abe Lincoln's bed
Golf three days in a row, eat a bigger burger
Try to hide another failing business merger
In cyberspace my daily lies still constantly flow
From islands in my mind where truth won't grow.

Thoughts Full of Thoughtless Fox

Imagining tonight's political news broadcasts
red base watchers some awake some comatose
the time between commercial breaks goes fast
POTUS 45 seems muddled, maudlin, morose
on the screen one senses no sign of journalism
but plenty of hearsay and what about this… ifs
ignoring idiotic tweets and those in the know
little discussion of Covid or the national schism
hearing much of conservatives self-righteous difs
the thoughtful fox disdains and displays unbelief
eyes and ears support not news stories days in a row
contributions roll in for a corrupt commander-in-chief
the fox's crafty message seems carelessly splinted
as in your brain their endless refrain is imprinted.

Facebook's 'ad' ban hurts political mags

By NORMAN STOCKWELL
Tribune News Service

Norman Stockwell is publisher of The Progressive*. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by* The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Shortly before this year's presidential election, Facebook—chastened by public opinion and congressional hearings—announced that it would cease all political ads in order to slow the flood of misinformation and disinformation that abounded on its platform. That made sense, given the power the social media website had over public opinion.

But, more ominously, the platform with more than 2.7 billion active monthly users also announced that, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 4, the day after the election, it would ban all ads "about social issues, elections and politics in the U.S." for an indefinite period.

Now, a month after the election, that ban remains in effect. And it impacts a good deal more than what people commonly think of as ads.

Most notably, this ban applies to paid promotion of posts and articles—the way many publications gain new readers and new audiences for their content. This is a tool used by publications including The Progressive, a 111-year-old political magazine based in Wisconsin. As the magazine's publisher, that makes me deeply concerned.

The Progressive has an active following on social media, especially Facebook. But due to these restrictions, we are no longer able to promote our articles and gain new audiences for the high-quality, fact-based reporting that our writers produce.

This is not the first time that progressive news websites have had trouble with Facebook's restrictions. In 2018, I reported on our attempts to publicize a public screening of four award-winning films. Facebook initially refused the ad, but later relented with no explanation.

In 2019, Mother Jones magazine issued a report showing significant loss in site visits (and revenue) due to a tiny change in Facebook's algorithm for driving traffic. The findings in the Mother Jones report were confirmed this past October by The Wall Street Journal.

But not only Mother Jones was affected. Facebook's rules affect all publishers who produce content that addresses social and political issues.

Facebook claims it is trying to restrict falsehoods and promote truth on its platform. So I decided to test this premise. On Nov. 19, we published an op-ed by our editor, Bill Lueders, about the importance of truth in journalism.

"We face a common enemy: the preponderance of lies. We also share a common goal: to make truth matter," Lueders wrote. "Our obligation as journalists and opinion leaders is to insist that truth is knowable, and deserves more fidelity than falsehoods."

Below this article on our Facebook page is a small box where Facebook asks "Do you want to 'boost' this post?" I clicked yes, and filed in the necessary information to make the post available (once I had paid by credit card) to other potentially interested readers who are not "followers" of our page but have similar interests.

Within a few hours, the message came back from the Facebook ads team: "Your ad was rejected because it doesn't comply with our advertising policies."

In an online update on Nov. 11, Facebook said, "The temporary pause for ads about politics and social issues in the U.S. continues to be in place as part of our ongoing efforts to protect the election. Advertisers can expect this to last another month, though there may be an opportunity to resume these ads sooner. We will notify advertisers when this pause is lifted."

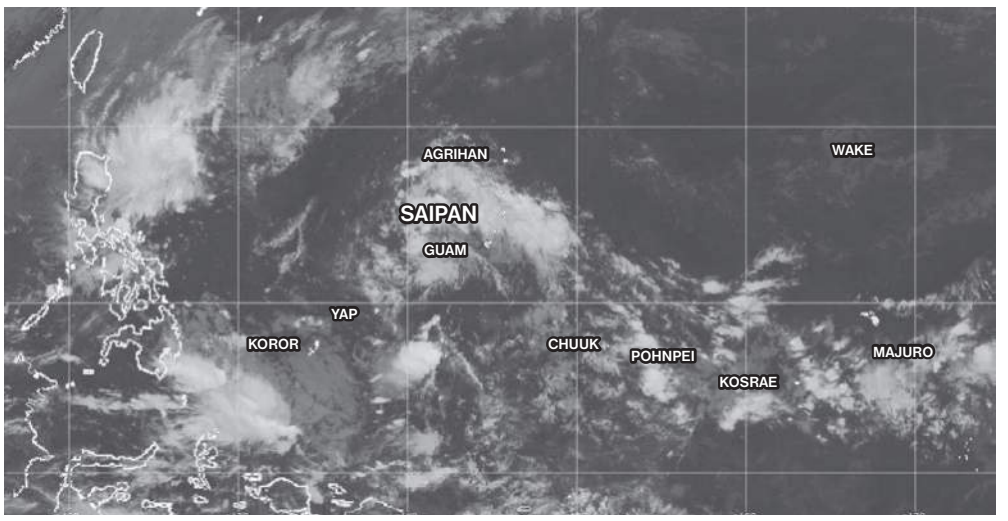
If Facebook truly wants to "Give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together," as it claims in its mission statement, perhaps it should consider allowing fact-based, truth-seeking publications to share content with other interested audiences.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:04 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show a broad band of heavy showers training across Tinian and Saipan waters while showers have decreased considerably over the Guam and Rota areas. Radar data also shows stronger winds, between 25 and 30 mph, just above the surface, but without heavy rains to mix those winds down to the surface, surface observations merely show winds between 5 and 15 mph. The forecast has been updated to reflect drier weather today at Guam and Rota, but models continue to support a redevelopment of scattered showers across the region later this afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:32 AM	9:03 PM
Saturday	-	10:23 AM	9:59 PM
Sunday	-	11:11 AM	10:55 PM
Monday	-	11:57 AM	11:51 PM
Tuesday	-	12:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 27°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	68° / 59°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 32°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 50°
Manila	Rain	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 65°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Paris	Showers	41° / 28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 43°
Rome	Rain	59° / 46°
Salem	Showers	41° / 28°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 34°
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 34°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	43° / 33°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:49 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.44
11:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.67
4:40 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18
8:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.54

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

40th Anniversary

2020 Christmas tree lighting at the Hyatt

Hyatt Regency Saipan's management and staff gather around the 20-foot Christmas tree for their annual lighting ceremony last Tuesday.
BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

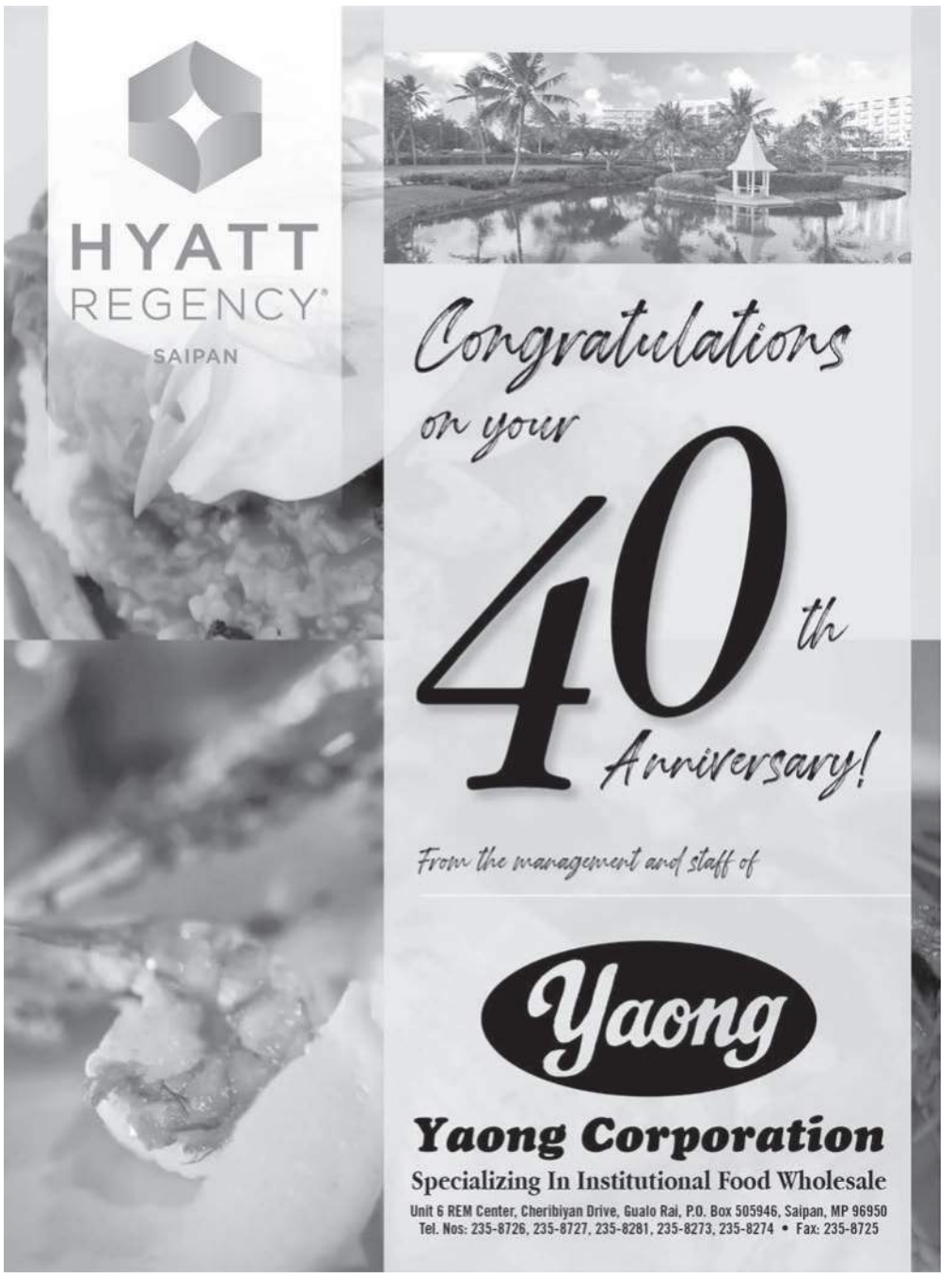
Hyatt Regency Saipan officially started the Christmas season in the CNMI by lighting their 20-foot Christmas tree on the day of their 40th anniversary. The ceremony was made simple this year to comply with social distancing regulations and attended by Hyatt management, staff, employees, and hotel guests with their families.

"Our lighting of the tree is a good reminder of tradition, bringing people together and a promise of good things to come. Christmas to me is all about happy memories, a time for giving and forgiving. As for my Christmas wish, I will give it up for somebody else to get his or her wish."
—Hyatt Sous chef Zen Tomokane

"Christmas is often about other people, particularly in the hospitality service where you do not do the job because you enjoy being away on the holidays, but you do it to bring that joy to everyone else. Lighting of the Hyatt tree means another year of service to the CNMI. This year is a bit subdued than normal because we don't have the carolers, the bands, and big fanfare that we usually do but this brings us back to important things in life—the Hyatt employees and their families that are here."
—Hyatt Food & Beverage manager Ty Pauling

"Christmas is the best season of the year and to me it means family. The lighting of the tree prepares us for the real celebration of Christmas and with it, I wish good

Continued on Next Page



From Page 13

health for my family and for the COVID-19 vaccine to arrive so that things will go back to normal."

—Hyatt supervisor Gino Libuw

"Christmas is definitely about family and the lighting of the tree represents the family that we have here at the hotel. It is significant for us because it marks the many years we have been here on Saipan. I have been with Hyatt for 27 years and 22 of that were spent with Hyatt Regency Saipan. My wish for Hyatt is to remain on Saipan. Hyatt is a great employer. We have been blessed to be here that long and we hope to continue to be here."

—Hyatt director of rooms Rosalyn Quinpanilla

"Christmas is a time to celebrate with loved ones and we share this joyous time of lighting the Hyatt Christmas tree with our associates who are not with us… and hope that this Christmas tree brings joy to everyone. My Christmas wish is not for me but for Hyatt to get its lease agreement renewed."

—Almond Santos of Hyatt Engineering Dept.

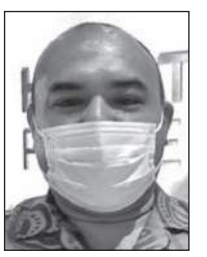
"Christmas is a time for being grateful for what happened and received in 2020. It is also a time of reflection. This year is very special because we chose to light the tree on our anniversary day. …Like me, most of the staff wish that the lease will get renewed and Hyatt can continue to be here and be part of the community for a long time. Hyatt Regency Saipan has been a part of our life and community."

—Hyatt learning manager Denise Montenegro

"On our 40th anniversary and lighting of our Christmas tree, we want to see people with smiling faces and just enjoy. Despite the many difficulties this year has brought to our island and the whole world, we want to celebrate it like it is just an ordinary year. My Christmas wish is get new lease."

—Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa

"Christmas is for family, friends, and coworkers. As a company, we share and feel the Christmas spirit together. It's officially Christmas at the Hyatt and we must show gratefulness and happy times. My Christmas wish is for our lease to get extended so we will have jobs to support our families."



—Hyatt housekeeping team leader Jonathan Cepeda

"Christmas is a time for family and friends to gather. Lighting the tree gives us hope that there is something good and better out there

Continued on Page 16

Hyatt Regency Saipan management led by general manager Nick Nishikawa, left, raise their hands forming 4-0, which means 40 years of Hyatt service and community partnership in the CNMI.

BEA CABRERA

HYATT
REGENCY™

Ruby Anniversary
1980-2020

Forty years
of grandeur & luxury...

Thank you, Hyatt Regency Saipan, for making us feel more than welcome these past four decades.

Congratulations!

www.pacificains.com

pacifica
Insurance
Underwriters, Inc.
Rest Assured.

From Page 14

that makes us forget what is happening around the world right now, especially with the pandemic. We also hope that the new lease agreement will come through so we can still stay and keep our guests happy and provide for our families."

—Hyatt housekeeping team leader Frank Camacho

"Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and because through Him, we are saved. My wish is for Hyatt to have another 40 year [lease]."

—Hyatt director of Finance Evan Yamagishi

"Christmas is about being with family and here at the Hyatt, even in our workplace, we are family and spending this time at the workplace is still like spending time with family. The lighting of the Hyatt Christmas tree is a tradition. I've been working here for five years and I never missed one. I am glad we have this, especially during these hard times. I wish they extend the lease so all of us here can still continue to work together."

—Leigh Anne Gases, supervisor at Club Elan

"Christmas is family, love, and signifies the start of the Christmas festivities and our busiest season. I hope we can pick up more business because it has been slow due to COVID-19. As for my Christmas wish, extend our lease please!"

—Hyatt events system manager Kovanni Cabrera

Hyatt: Service driven, a legacy in the making

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

For 40 years, Hyatt Regency Saipan has not only touched the lives of its guests but it has remained steadfast in being a partner of the CNMI business community by being involved in programs, events, and fundraising projects that help boost and uplift the economy and community relationships.

In an interview with business leaders, they all spoke as one in the hope that Hyatt Regency Saipan will continue to serve the CNMI community, spread joy, and inspire other business organizations to make the CNMI a better place.

Guerrero

"From the owners, Kobe Portopia Hotel Corp., to the Hyatt management and staff, everyone have been so wonderful to our family for many years. Whenever we have any kind of function, they are always providing the best possible service. My daughter's wedding reception was held here years ago. We were frequent guests of Sunday brunch when it was still Oceana Room and we frequented the Trader Bar as well and so we have seen our family really grow up at Hyatt. I would like thank them for their participation in the community as they have been a wonderful addition, not just for the tourists but for the local community as well. They make us feel we are really valued in the services they provide. The community is really supportive about their lease agreement negotiations. I know there are many hoops and loops to get through but if everybody comes together in the bargaining table, I hope Hyatt will stay for another 40 years."

— Roberta Guerrero, executive director of Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance

"Hyatt is a true partner in building the CNMI's economy. Over the years, they provided jobs to our local residents and helped boost our economy. …As a Chamber member, Hyatt has been very supportive and they've always participated in all our activities and provided for opportunities for their

Palacios

staff to participate in our committees and our board. They have contributed to our events for scholarships, making them an active and great member of the community. Part of my work in the Chamber is working with the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands to help hotels with leases coming up, including Hyatt. We work on compromise and provisions that are agreeable to both Department of Public Lands and HANMI. … We definitely support the renewal of Hyatt's lease as they been here 40 years. It will be good to sustain their place in the community and we don't want to see a long-time company go as they are part of the CNMI family."

–Velma Palacios, president Saipan Chamber of Commerce

Calvo

"The combination of an awesome management and staff makes Hyatt Regency Saipan a great team. I am grateful that that they remained here and have grown even stronger despite the global pandemic, economic crisis, and super typhoons. One thing I really admire about the company is how they take good care of their employees. Employees for them are family and as such they operate as a family. They train employees to excel and reach new heights. The whole Calvo Enterprise and family identifies Hyatt as their home away from home."

–Marcia Calvo, account executive of Calvo's Insurance

Benavente

"I worked at Hyatt Regency Saipan a couple of times in my career. The training I received from Hyatt helped me develop as a person and I attribute all my good posi-

See HYATT on Next Page

HYATT

From Page 17

tive professional training to them. …We cannot afford to let Hyatt leave the CNMI and I am sure both parties—DPL and Hyatt—will decide with what is good for the CNMI."

—Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente

Tenorio

"Happy birthday Hyatt Regency Saipan! It's been really great that they have been around for 40 years in the CNMI. Aside for being a 5-star hotel giving wonderful service and employing locals, we thank them for always reaching out to the community, especially their support to many educational programs at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute and Northern Marianas College."

—Janice Tenorio, customer service manager of IT&E

"Happy birthday, Hyatt, and congratulations for 40 years. Thank you for being a wonderful member of our community and providing so many opportunities for many people."

—Noelani P. McMahon, SCC marketing

McMahon

Guerrero

"Hyatt has always been a delight in terms of dining and special occasions for many families in the CNMI. We would often spend birthdays and anniversaries at the Hyatt Giovanni's, which we miss. They have been very accommodating and very easy to work with when we have functions with them. …They make you feel that you are welcome… and you feel like it's your second home. It's nice to have that in a small community. I am optimistic that their lease will get renewed, that all parties involved will find a middle ground and I think I join most people in the community that would like to see Hyatt remain on island."

—Joe Guerrero, owner of Naked Fish in Garapan.

"My family and I love to go to Hyatt for lunch, dinners, and

Soledad

Sunday brunch. I wish them the happiest of anniversaries on their 40th year. Sous chef Zen Tomokane, Food and Beverage director Tai Pauling, and everyone always gives excellent service . I absolutely hope that their lease gets renewed as Hyatt is an icon in the community. We are all rooting for them."

—Rose Soledad, IT&E CNMI general manager

Laszio

"I am grateful for all that Hyatt does, for being a wonderful business partner to the Chamber and the rest of the community. …Many times they've sponsored our events that we have going on for the scholarship program and for simply being there when we need it always. I hope that we continue to have another 40 years of Hyatt."

—Maxine Laszlo, executive director, Saipan Chamber of Commerce

'I hope people of the CNMI want to see the new Hyatt'

BEA CABRERA

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A veteran in hotel management before coming to Saipan 12 years ago, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa himself acknowledges that his first impression when he first stepped foot in the hotel was that the design and structure are old and not at par with Hyatt standards around the world.

Nishikawa hopes that this would change after they get the much awaited lease renewal for another 40 years from the Department of Public Lands.

At the same time, he was impressed with the consistent 5-star service of its staff, which, paired with good maintenance and upkeep, has enabled Saipan Regency Saipan to celebrate its 40th anniversary last Tuesday.

"When I came here, I thought the hotel was old and not quite the same with the Hyatt hotels worldwide. …The building may be outdated but what made it robust and young was the quality of people and staff working here—5-star standard then and is still the same today, even with the pandemic," he said. "We want to do the renovations but because of the expiring lease agreement, we couldn't do it. I told my staff to maintain, clean, and do whatever we can at the moment. …When we get the lease renewal, I tell you, when we renovate using the Hyatt design team and technical service…this hotel is going to be fantastic."

"I hope the people of the CNMI wants to see the new Hyatt," he added.

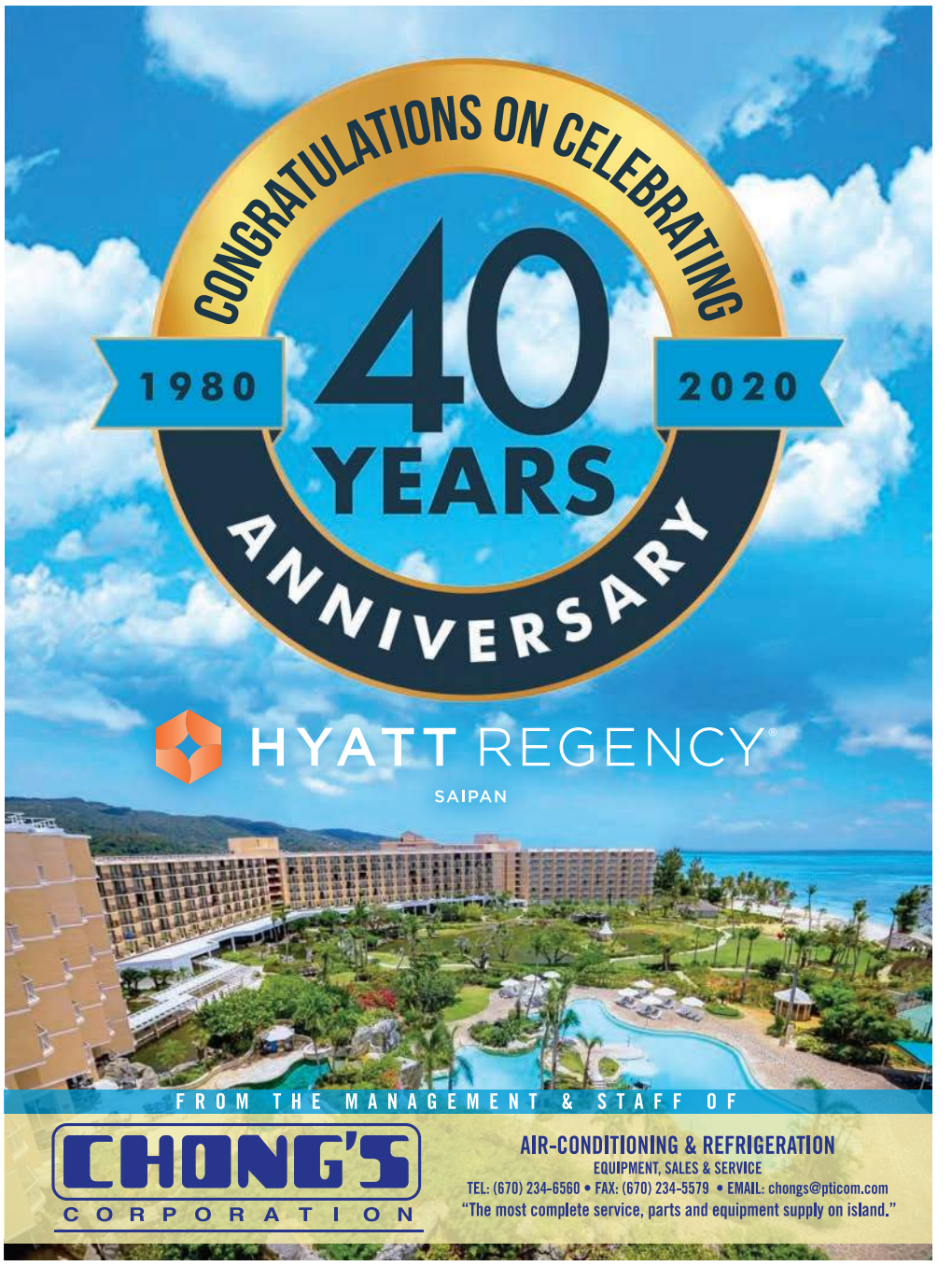
This kind of optimism is what brought Hyatt Regency Saipan this far to the end of their lease agreement with the CNMI government. Nishikawa said that their vision to remain in the CNMI is unbreakable. "You read in the newspapers that one or two documents are missing or incomplete in the submission of our proposal or packet. We would like the community to understand that this is the first time we are applying for a lease extension and it is quite difficult to prepare everything during this pandemic," Nishikawa said. "Three weeks ago I was in Japan to discuss with owning company (Kobe Portopia Hotel Corp.) and Hyatt. Both parties are willing to extend and expect that the CNMI government will decide in our favor. The owning company and Hyatt are ready to make a new management contract between them. …

The owner is happy with the progress going into the submission of documents with DPL. …Of course, they are willing to continue Hyatt operations when we get the lease extension."

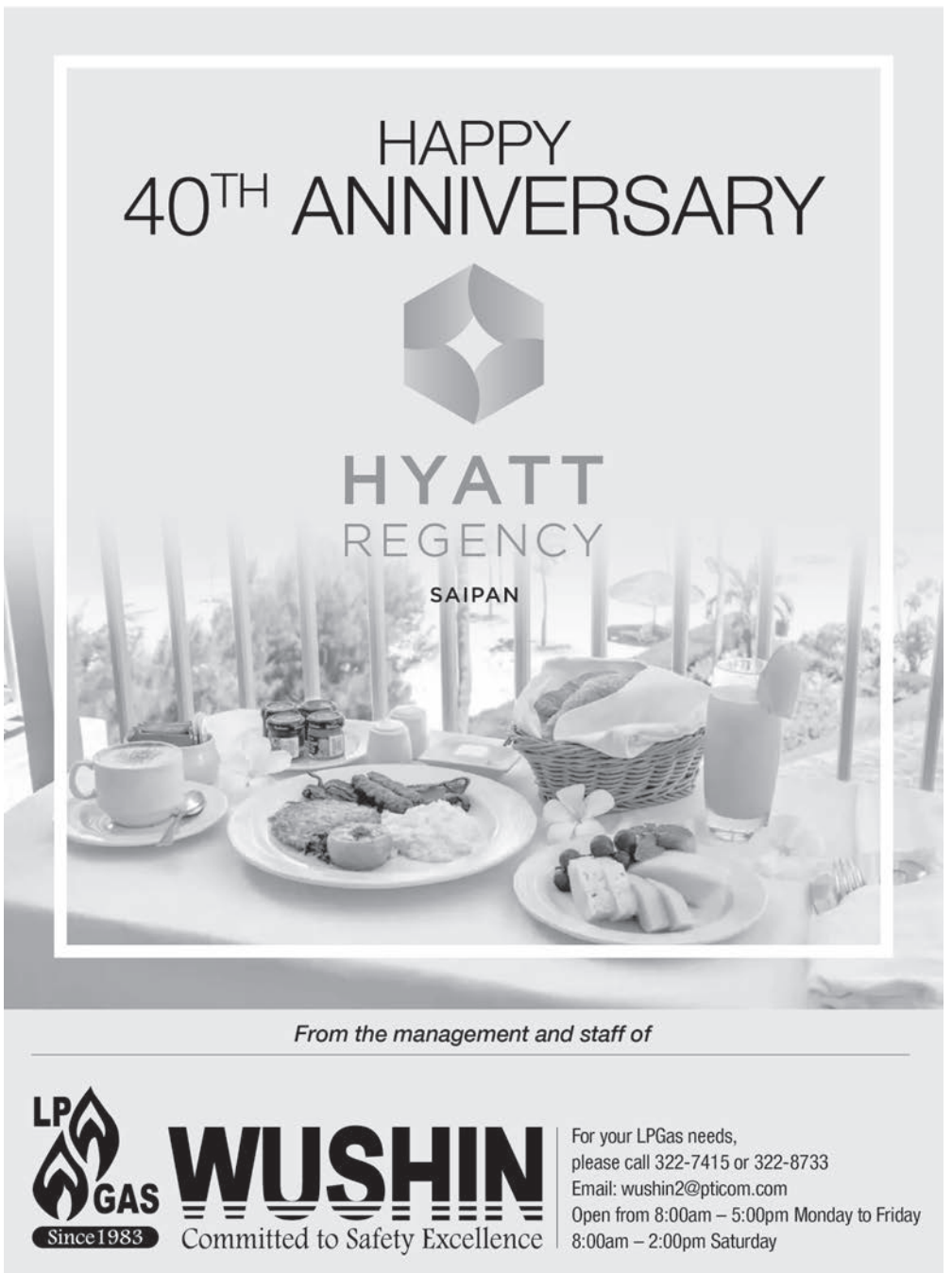
Through the pandemic, force majeure and economic crisis, Nishikawa's leadership remains steadfast. "The past months have been very difficult and this is the same with other hotels. I had a discussion with the owner and Hyatt whether we should close or not because ceasing the operations of the hotel entails less expense than keeping it open. …But we don't have the heart to close the hotel and was told by the owner to do whatever we can do to serve the guests," he said. "So we never closed the hotel and accommodated people from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and contractors and they have been with us for quite some time. We appreciate them for what they are doing for the islands and the people the CNMI."

According to Nishikawa, accommodation and restaurant service are starting to re-

See CNMI on Next Page



Congratulations on your
HYATT
REGENCY
SAIPAN
40th Anniversary!
From the management and staff of
SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC
We Care About Your Health!
CNMI'S MOST TRUSTED AND PREFERRED!
• Daily water tests by onsite chemist
• Saipan's only automated bottling
• Never loses its great taste
• Saipan's first water company
• New hot & cold dispensers
• Pure and safe
• Water from deep well
• Freshly packaged
• Saipan's most trusted
• Fluoridated water optional
• Private labels available
• FDA registered
• Home delivery service
• Certified US Military Supplier
• Food stamps accepted
CALL: 322.6130 /9848 /9455 | EMAIL: spnice@pticom.com • WEBSITE: saipanice.com



From the management and staff of

LP GAS Since1983 WUSHIN Committed to Safety Excellence

For your LPGas needs,
please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Email: wushin2@pticom.com
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday
8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

CNMI

From Page 19

sume but with limited operations. "Winter and Christmas season is the peak months for this hotel. I have been receiving a lot of inquiries from regular customers from Japan and Korea who always stay here for a month or two to get away from the cold," he said. "They know Saipan is a safe place but becomes hesitant because of the five-day mandatory quarantine. …This is killing the economy, not only for this island but everywhere. But no matter what, we cannot compromise health and safety."

Also due to the pandemic, Nishikawa had to let go of many employees to keep the hotel afloat. "When business comes back slowly, one by one we will call them back as they are our first priority. …I know I cannot control this pandemic and we are just doing everything we can where we have control over—expenses and operation cost. We have 120 staff right now and we have to take care of them, the owning company and the Hyatt brand name," he added.

Though vaccines are on the way, Nishikawa and his team is still expect everything to return to normal in the second half of 2021. "I think tourism will change and we will have a new kind of tourists after the pandemic but Hyatt will be ready to target those people. …We are also looking forward to other international brands opening on Saipan like [Crowne Plaza brand] because I definitely understand [that] one international brand can only do a little and maybe two international hotels can do better for this destination. …Other islands in Asia have many international hotel brands, thus tourism is booming over there and this island needs that," he said.

"I believe that Hyatt's success is backed by people who have been working for this hotel for many years. …Hyatt will never cease to be a family-oriented company that takes care of its staff like family and this care extends to the community. …This means we are proud working for Hyatt and that makes a big difference. …Our quiet but strong spirit remains here (points to his heart)," he added.

'Hyatt at 40 is historic'

Hyatt director for Human Resources Josephine Mesta. BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Josephine Mesta can't help but get sentimental when she looks back and see how far Hyatt Regency Saipan has gone in the past 40 years.

In fact, Mesta, who is Hyatt's director for Human Resources, worked at the hotel when it was still the Continental Hotel.

"So I am almost making a full circle. …It's been a wonderful ride for me as a career," she said.

For the 40 years that the hotel has been in operation in the CNMI, Mesta said that they have been actively involved in the community. "We are a company that believes that we have a social responsibility, wherever we are at," she said. "The past few months have been filled with many bittersweet moments, especially at this time of the pandemic. We had to let go of several employees who came in at the same time as I did. …It's heartbreaking [but] *cest la vie*, we didn't create the situation but we have to respond to it."

Mesta saw the growth of the Hyatt workforce over the years and is proud of the loyalty many of them have showed. "It is interesting to see the evolution of this business. …When I started, it was 20% U.S. workforce but now it's 100% U.S. workforce. … Sadly, we lost a lot of our key players, the ones who are experienced and I hope some of them would return somehow," she said,

"Our mentality is the work that we do is more than just a job and a lot of employees share the same sentiments we have. We have employees who probably have an average of 10-plus years and one 30-plus years. It is where we grew up. …I was in my prime when I joined Hyatt…but I wouldn't trade it [for other careers]. …Even after 27 years, I still feel I have more to do here not only in the coming days but hopefully for the next 40 years," she added.

Special Feature

Editor's Note: *The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.*

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS — TOGETHER, WE CAN

Rotary buckles down to work

The Rotary Club of Saipan is moving forward with its enhancement project at the Suicide Cliff.

Fifteen Rotary members plus their family members held a cleanup drive at the site last month. They worked on the iron fence and had it repainted, courtesy of the donated paint from Tandem Skydive Saipan. Rotary also teamed up with Division of Parks & Recreation to bush cut grass and clear trees at the Suicide Cliff, while the Saipan Mayor's Office assisted the club in pulling out tree stumps to clear the area for new plants.

Clearing work and other minor improvement at the site that has World War II historical significance were done in preparation for Rotary Club's major project—to develop a butterfly garden.

"The planned butterfly garden will add value to the historical significance of the Suicide Cliff for all residents and tourists to enjoy. This is an opportunity for our club to develop a creative and unique project that our people can enjoy and be proud of," said Rotary Club of Saipan president Sonya Dancoe.

The repainting of the iron fence and cleanup drive are just the beginning of many steps that the Rotary will be taking to enhance Suicide Cliff. Their next project is to plant trees and grow foliage in the area and then work on a sustainable and environment-friendly artwork at the site.

"Rotarians are people of action and we will continue to work on projects that benefit our community. *Gi todos hit ta hulat*. Together, we can," Dancoe said. ***(PR)***

New sites, new partners for Rota

The Rota Mayor's Office, Filipino Community of Rota, and Hotel Valentino have won over additional partners for their new adopted sites, strengthening the island's support for the Public Private Partnership initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

Rota Merchandizing and DK Brothers, which are owned by Pedro Dela Cruz, have signed up for the island's beautification project involving old abandoned buildings at the main thoroughfare of Songsong. The two companies will also help spruce up and maintain the Melchor Mendiola Leadership Park, the new site adopted by Rota.

The island's other new adopted site is the Airport Road and Hotel Valentino will team up with the Commonwealth Ports Authority in beautifying the area by planting flowers and growing foliage native to Rota.

"We would like to welcome and thank Rota Merchandizing, DK Brothers, and CPA for joining us in this destination enhancement initiative. The more help we could get in the community, the more projects we could do to help take care of the key sites on our beautiful island," Hotel Valentino operations manager Lupe Flores said.

The Rota partner groups recently did paint work, landscaping, and water blasting at the Benita Manglona Building, an abandoned site in the heart of Songsong. Norman Tenorio of Joeten Enterprise and Diego Songao donated paints for the project, while Rota Merchandizing and DK Brothers provided manpower and equipment for the cleanup.

"Once we complete the paint job at the two buildings, we will shift our focus to the Mendiola Park, as the holiday season is here and the park is used for Rota's Christmas tree lighting, novena, and other gatherings," Flores said. ***(PR)***

Business

Atalig wins Chamber 'CNMI Buy Local' campaign

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Docomo Pacific People operations manager Michelle Atalig was named winner of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce "Buy in the CNMI" campaign, which encouraged the community to support local businesses, artists, and vendors by making local purchases. Atalig was awarded $500 worth of gift certificates from different Chamber member establishments at the SCC membership meeting held Wednesday at the Grand Ballroom of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"I first heard about the 'Buy in the CNMI' Campaign during SCC's November general membership meeting. I felt like it was a great campaign to direct buyers to go to local businesses for goods and services and give buyers incentive by making a social media challenge out of it," she said.

"With the economic climate now, small businesses are hurting in unprecedented ways. Where we usually look to small businesses to sponsor events, causes, and even people, small businesses are now looking to us to keep them afloat. That really put things into perspective for me," she added.

The mechanics of the campaign asked participants to post a picture at one of the Chamber member establishments, post it on Facebook or Instagram with a caption explaining why it's important to "Buy in the CNMI" in the post, and tag SCC. The winner was randomly selected and no purchase was necessary to enter or win but Atalig went the extra mile.

Business Services
Support local businesses this season and participate in the BUY IN THE CNMI 2020 CAMPAIGN!
#buyinthecnmisweepstakes
@saipanchamber
@docomopacific_cnmi

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce's "Buy in the CNMI" campaign winner Michelle Atalig and the photo entry that won her $500 worth of gift certificates.

"I just finished making a purchase of a charger base and cord… the photo I submitted was of me holding a Docomo bag with friends Jacquelyn Ocaya and Rica Concepcion….I am happy to support our businesses and I plan to do more of it this holiday season," she said.

"I want our CNMI economy to thrive and so I encourage others to support small businesses especially now. Small businesses thrive on our support more so now in the absence of our tourism market. The consequence is we risk temporary and/or permanent business closures," she added.

A campaign that started with helping out the community will end with Atalig sharing her reward to others as well. "I'm not usually one to win anything so I was very surprised. I fully intend to pay this forward and help one or a few in need using the prize I will receive," she said.

Matson commits $5M to support community foodbanks through 2023

GUAM—Matson has committed $5 million in cash and in-kind shipping services to the foodbank networks supporting families in need in Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam. Already a longtime financial supporter in those communities, Matson will provide the foodbanks with ocean shipping of food supplies at no cost for the remainder of 2020 and all of 2021, 2022, and 2023.

The new commitment follows Matson's support this year for Catholic Social Service Guam (CSS). Matson has provided shipping and extended the use of refrigeration containers for the island's food bank.

"With the pandemic affecting incomes for so many, families in all of our communities are under extraordinary strain and foodbanks are struggling to keep up with the need. This is something we can do to help foodbanks put more of their funding toward sourcing food for distribution," said Matt Cox, Chairman and CEO of Matson. "We are committed to helping meet community needs in the way we know best – by getting much needed basic sustenance supplies delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Lisa Bordallo, Marketing & Client Services manager for Catholic Social Service Guam, said, "The overall mission at Catholic Social Service is to encourage the spiritual, intellectual, economic, and social well-being of families and individuals in need through our services and programs. Our Food Pantry is one of our programs whose sole mission is to end hunger in Guam by providing outreach and emergency food assistance to the community."

CSS started as a small food pantry offering a few days' worth of canned goods to families affected by disaster. The CSS Food Pantry has grown to accommodate thousands of individuals per month. According to Bordallo, since the beginning of the pandemic, hundreds more families have requested food assistance, and a majority of those families were requesting assistance for the first time. CSS has also increased its outreaches to the homeless, elderly, lower-income families, and quarantined families in need of food assistance.

"With such increases in demand, we have increased our food drives and purchases to assist as many people as we can," Bordallo said. "We thank our vendors and corporate partners such as Matson for helping us to meet the demand locally and to make this food more available. Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Matson for your support of our mission and allowing us to be a part of this program!"

Cox added, "While we are all hopeful that vaccines and new treatments will begin to make a difference in 2021, it's clear that the pandemic's effects on many local families could be long-lasting. We are committing to support our foodbanks for the next three years in order to

help them maximize their capacity to help families recover."

Matson operates weekly service to Guam from Honolulu with connecting service to Saipan, Yap, Palau, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Majuro, and Kwajalein.

Detailed service schedules and other information about Matson is available online at Matson.com. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of December 4, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. National Park Service	11/17/2020 SPI-2020-X-050-A1	One Additional Borehole	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved 11/20/2020
2. Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	11/23/2020 SPIm-2020-006	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 12/01/2020

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

Public Notice
From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: December 4, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the proposed designation of critical habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed threatened coral species, some of which are found within the CNMI. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/PIR-Proposed-Coral-CH-CZMA-letter-CNMI-11-27-20.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on December 4, 2020 and ending on December 19, 2020. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Nation

Biden, top Dems swing behind bipartisan virus aid bill

WASHINGTON (AP)— President-elect Joe Biden swung behind a bipartisan COVID-19 relief effort Wednesday and his top Capitol Hill allies cut their demands for a $2 trillion-plus measure by more than half in hopes of breaking a monthslong logjam and delivering much-sought aid as the tempestuous congressional session speeds to a close.

Biden said the developing aid package "wouldn't be the answer, but it would be the immediate help for a lot of things." He wants a relief bill to pass Congress now, with more aid to come next year.

Biden's remarks followed an announcement by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Democrat leader Chuck Schumer of New York in support of an almost $1 trillion approach as the "basis" for discussions. The announcement appeared aimed at budging Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who so far has been unwilling to abandon a $550 billion Senate GOP plan that has failed twice this fall.

The Democrats embraced a $908 billion approach from moderate Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, among others. It would establish a $300 per week jobless benefit, send $160 billion to help state and local governments, boost schools and universities, revive popular "paycheck protection" subsidies for businesses, and bail out transit systems and airlines.

"In the spirit of compromise we believe the bipartisan framework introduced by Senators yesterday should be used as the basis for immediate bipartisan, bicameral negotiations," Pelosi and Schumer said. They said they would try to build upon the approach, which has support in the House from a bipartisan "problem solvers" coalition.

The statement was a significant concession by Pelosi and Schumer, who played hardball this fall during failed preelection discussions with the administration on a costlier bill. They wanted a more generous unemployment benefit and far more for state and local government. Their embrace of the $908 billion measure was a retreat from a secret $1.3 trillion offer the two Democrats gave McConnell just on Monday.

It's another sign of urgency for additional COVID aid and economic stimulus as the economy struggles to recover from being slammed by the novel coronavirus. While the jobless rate isn't as high as was feared, the restaurant and airline industries are desperate for aid, as are other businesses, state and local officials, transit systems and the Postal Service, among others.

The new plan includes a liability shield for businesses and other organizations that have reopened their doors during the pandemic. It's the first time Pelosi and Schumer have shown a willingness to consider the idea, a top priority of McConnell, though there's been no discussion on the details, which are sure to be tricky.

McConnell had dismissed the bipartisan offer on Tuesday, instead aiming to rally Republicans around the $550 billion GOP proposal. But McConnell himself endorsed a $1 trillion-or so plan this summer, only to encounter resistance from conservatives that prompted him to retrench. He has acknowledged that another infusion of aid to states and local governments, a key Pelosi demand, probably will pass eventually.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: December 4, 2020 • **CLOSING DATE:** December 21, 2020
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2020-008	***RE-ANNOUNCEMENT*** CDBG-DR Loan Supervisor (1- Position)	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00-per annum
2020-014	***RE-ANNOUNCEMENT*** CDBG-DR Accountant (2-Positions)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00-per annum
2020-015	***RE-ANNOUNCEMENT*** CDBG-DR Project Supervisor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $35,000.00 to $45,000.00-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 and Lot 057 E 29, containing a total area of approximately 6,603 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. Copies of the location of the parcels are available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is A & M Corporation. The list of officers for A & M Corporation are Mrs. Maria S. Palacios, as President, and Mr. Arnold I. Palacios, as Secretary/ Treasurer.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of A & M Corporation, mainly Mrs. Maria S. Palacios.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a operating a Warehouse, Maintenance, Repair Shop, Carpentry Shop, Management Office and other related activities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of each lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 11, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'inutisia guini put I intension ñani para u nama'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresåo na petsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerål siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para I atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu más mo'na mapribeniyini Lai Pupbliku 15-2, I sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda ni para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 yan Lot 057 E 29, ni ha kunsisisti i åriagikå si guaha 6,603 square meters, más pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikono simientu.

ii. The prospective lessee i A & M Corporation. I listan ufisiåt siha para i A & M Corporation si Siñora Maria S. Palacios, komu Presidenti, yan si Siñot Arnold I. Palacios, komu Sekritåriu/Tresureru.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon"compliant" yan i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu ni ufisiåt yan direktot nu i A & M Corporation, mayot menti si Siñora Maria S. Palacios.

iv. I lessee debina u usa i lugåt para atyu ha' na rason "operating" i "Warehouse, Maintenance, Repair Shop, Carpentry Shop, Management Office" yan ottru manasosiåt na rason.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntrå tanat kilon sabenti singku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gikada' såkkan gi durântin i temani kontrå tanat kilon mapegagi pusientus nu ibålin"appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikåblina pusientusnu Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponina kuntrå tanak kilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan I JoetenDandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, giprimet (1st) na bibiendani De'Ana Commercial Building, iyaSongsongnasengsong, Luta; pat giprimet (1st) nabibiendan I PM Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia mana guaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma' atkila I masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debina u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin I manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Disembre 11, 2020 giufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkáåw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóókka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebw eakkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálóbwe Lot 057 E 18, Lot 057 E 15 me Lot 057 E 29, e lo bwe 6,603 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil Falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwalwóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol schóól atkkilóón nge A & M Corporation. List-al officers ngáli A & M Corporation nge Mrs. Maria S. Palacios, bwe President, me Mr. Arnold I. Palacios, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/ Treasurer.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi officers me directors-il A & M Corporation, spesiatmente Mrs. Maria S. Palacios.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl "Warehouse", "Maintenance", "Repair Shop", "Carpentry Shop", "Management Office" me akkáåw mwóghutughutikka e bwal schuulong.

Pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh ngáligh aleew abwungu bwungúlat kkilóónnge e lo reel percentage-il "appraised fair market value" reel falúwfengál me "applicable percentage" reel "Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta' ngáre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwalyoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye e siiweli falúw iye re apasa me Lower Base, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmweli lbweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommwiye re siiweli sángi schóókka re mwuschel wóól ngáremmwalil Disembre 11, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-009

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation of two SCADA systems and two additives at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-009, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 5, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020** to Manny Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR A&E SERVICES
CUC-RAES-21-012

Engineering Consulting Services for CUC's Integrated Solar Photovoltaic Energy and Battery Storage Systems

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed RAES Proposals from qualified firms for engineering consultant services for CUC's solar photovoltaic and renewable energy systems in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAES package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the AES Proposal marked *"CUC-RAES-21-012, Engineering Consulting Services for CUC's Integrated Solar Photovoltaic Energy and Battery Storage Systems"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than December 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit RAES Proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the RAES Proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAES requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAES under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAES under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 15, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Anne Crockett, CUC Senior Electrical Engineer via email address anne.crocket@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Administrative Technician Senior, via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all RAES Proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RAES, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All RAES Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-001

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE- 2 PROJECT REPLACEMENT OF FLOW METER AND PRESSURE RELEASE VALVE (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general removal and installation of gate valve assembly, PRV, flow meter, strainer, pressure gauge and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-001, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project Replacement of Flow Meter and Pressure Release Valve"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 7, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuazon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Technician Senior via email - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-005

A-2, A-5 AND A-6 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-2, A-5 and A-6 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing A-2, A-5 and A-6 sewer lift stations, including but not limited to the renovation of the existing generator buildings or the construction of a new generator building, the renovation or relocation of the wet wells with all new pipings, fittings, pumps, generators, and other equipment and appurtenances. The project also includes the installation of a temporary by-pass system and the relocation of existing utilities to accommodate construction activities. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in ***365* calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on December 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-005, A-2, A-5 and A-6 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) January 6, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on December 18, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

World

Putin orders 'large-scale' COVID-19 vaccination in Russia

S. Korea says stay home ahead of national exams

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials are urging people to remain at home if possible and cancel gatherings as about half a million students prepare for a crucial national college exam.

Vice Education Minister Park Baeg-beom says the 490,000 applicants include 35 virus carriers who will take the exams Thursday at hospitals or treatment shelters. Education authorities have also prepared separate venues for some 400 applicants currently under self-quarantine.

Applicants will be required to wear masks and maintain distance from each other. They will be screened for fever and take exams separately if they have symptoms.

Park Yu-mi, an anti-virus official in Seoul, pleaded with people to cancel all gatherings of more than 10, and for companies to have at least one-third of their employees work from home to ensure a safe environment for Thursday's examination.

MOSCOW (AP)—President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered a "large-scale" COVID-19 immunization campaign to start by late next week, with doctors and teachers set to be first in line to get a Russian-designed vaccine that has yet to complete the advanced studies needed to ensure its effectiveness and safety in line with established scientific protocols.

Putin's action came hours after Britain became the first country in the West to authorize the use of a vaccine against the coronavirus developed by U.S. drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech.

Russia touted its domestically developed vaccine, Sputnik V, as the world's "first registered COVID-19 vaccine" after the government gave it regulatory approval in early August. However, giving the shots the go-ahead drew considerable criticism from experts, because at the time the Sputnik V only had been tested on several dozen people.

The Russian leader said at the time that the early vaccine recipients included one of his daughters.

Putin said Wednesday that more than 2 million doses of the Sputnik V jab "has been produced or will have been produced in the next few days."

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-ITB-008

SUBMISSION DATE: December 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Groundwater, Leachate and Gas Testing at the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR TRANSFER STATION OFFICE LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 15, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division, 2nd Floor Transfer Station Office Lower Base, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 22, 2020** to Ms. **Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFP-009

SUBMISSION DATE: December 29, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"Scope of Services for Cost and Creation and Implementation of a Household Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HHWMP) Collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR TRANSFER STATION OFFICE LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 15, 2020**, 10:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division, 2nd Floor Transfer Station Office Lower Base, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 22, 2020** to **Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner Ann Marie C. San Nicolas

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: VICENTE NGIRARIOS CRUZ, Decedent.) Civil Action No.: 20-0367-CV NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: VICENTE NGIRARIOS CRUZ, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANN MARIE C. SAN NICOLAS for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 17th day of December, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., at the Supreme Court Room, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone no. (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, VICENTE NGIRARIOS CRUZ, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Judge Joseph Norita Camacho

Jin-Hyung Jang
P.O. Box 502861
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 287-7733
Email: kbjang@hotmail.com

Petitioner Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF CHANG HEE CHO, Deceased.) **Civil Action No. 18-0055-CV**) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Administrator's Combined Inventory and Petition for Decree of Distribution in the above-captioned Estate of Chang Hee Cho will come on for a hearing on the 17th day of December, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Any interested party may file their support or opposition with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing or may appear at the time set for hearing.

Dated this 1st day of December, 2020.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
CLERK OF COURT

/s/
Deputy Clerk

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

DESIGN/BUILD FOR THE SEAPORT MARINA IMPROVEMENTS
TINIAN HARBOR
CPA PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-20

1st AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the design and construction of improvements to the seaport marina at the Tinian Harbor. The work shall include all design, materials, labor, equipment and construction services necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout provided in the proposal package.

The Scope of Work (SOW) outlining the project's general requirements may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on ~~**Friday, November 20, 2020 at 10:00 am**~~ at the CPA Tinian Seaport Office at the Tinian Harbor to discuss the project scope of work in detail. A site inspection will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Attendance at this conference is not mandatory.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport, or via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 11, 2020. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Design/Build for Seaport Marina Improvement, Tinian Harbor, Tinian, CPA-TS-001-20".* Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 1, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-010

SUBMISSION DATE: December 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Route 315 (Quartermaster Road) & Route 33 (Beach Road) Intersection Improvements and Installation of Traffic Signal System, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **November 27, 2020** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 15, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 23, 2020** to **Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   - a. Call to Order
   - b. Roll Call
   - c. Adoption of Agenda
   - d. Adoption of Minutes
     - i. Regular Board Meeting – November 17, 2020
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   - a. Fund Status Report
4) **Old Business**
   - a. Travel Bubble
5) **New Business**
   - a. MVA Board of Directors Vacancy
   - b. MVA Japan Office
   - c. Product Development - LJ Lawn Care Contract
   - d. Sustainability Development Plan
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Off The Wall

Visitor: Monolith toppled by group who said 'leave no trace'

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — New clues have surfaced in the disappearance of a gleaming monolith in Utah that seemed to melt away as mysteriously as it appeared in the red-rock desert — though it's no longer the only place where a strange structure has come and gone.

A Colorado photographer told KSTU-TV that he saw four men come to the remote Utah site Friday night and push over the hollow, stainless steel object.

"Right after it had fallen over and made a loud thud, one of them said, 'This is why you don't leave trash in the desert,'" Ross Bernards told the Salt Lake City TV station.

The group broke down the structure into pieces, loaded it into a wheelbarrow and left.

"As they were loading it up and walking away, they just said, 'Leave no trace,'" he said.

The sheriff's office in San Juan County has said it's not planning an investigation into the disappearance of the monolith, which had been placed without permission on public land. But authorities also said they would accept tips from any of the hundreds of visitors who trekked out to see the otherworldly gleaming object deep in the desert.

This Nov. 27, 2020 photo by Terrance Siemon shows a monolith that was placed in a red-rock desert in an undisclosed location in San Juan County southeastern Utah. AP

The sheriff and the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the land where the object appeared, didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment on whether they are investigating the removal that Bernards' group photographed.

Visitors have left behind a mess of human waste, cars parked on vegetation and other debris, the land agency said. The mysterious structure that evoked the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" generated international attention and drew plenty of speculation about otherworldly origins, though officials said it was an earthly creation of riveted plates of stainless steel.

In Loving Memory

†Valentin Gaspar Del Rosario Jr.

Also known as "Totoy"

Born to Life: September 25, 1939
Called to Eternal Life: November 25, 2020

In his new life, he now joins:

Parents: †Valentin & Lucena Del Rosario
Siblings: †Adriano Del Rosario
†Artemio Del Rosario
†Rolando Del Rosario
†Emely Del Rosario Tolentino
Wife: †Anastacia Del Rosario
Father In-Law: †Narciso Delos Santos SR.
Brother In-Law: †Norberto Delos Santos

His Loving Memories will forever live in the hearts of:

Wife: Merlyn Delos Santos Del Rosario
Mother In-Law: Elisa O. Delos Santos
Children & Family:
Valentin III & Irma Del Rosario & Family
Edna Del Rosario Centro & Rolly Centro & Family
Maximo & Marieta Del Rosario & Family
Ronie & Gina Del Rosario & Family
Analyn Del Rosario Uson & Pedro Uson & Family
Willyn Del Rosario Paguio & Jose Paguio & Family
Valissa Lyn Del Rosario & Adrian Vino
Vladimer Del Rosario
Phil Willord Del Rosario

Step Son: Hector & Sharon Montelibano & Family
Butch Montelibano

Brothers & Sister In-Law:
Romeo & Elna De Jesus (Angel)
Jerry De Dios & Terry Legislador (Geraldine)
Elena Delos Santos & Family
Lucia Del Rosario & Family
Ernesto Tolentino & Family

†Valentin will be missed by numerous godchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at San Jose Parish Church Monday-Saturday at 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

On Wednesday, December 9th, 2020, our dearest †Valentin's remains will be at San Jose Church for public viewing from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Your prayers and words of encouragement are very much appreciated.

The Family

Sweden: Mother suspected of locking up her son for 28 years

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Police in Stockholm are investigating a woman in her 70s suspected of having kept her son locked up — reportedly for 28 years — in an apartment south of the Swedish capital, investigators said Tuesday.

Prosecutor Emma Olsson, who heads the preliminary investigation, said the woman who was held on suspicion of unlawful deprivation of liberty and grievous bodily harm.

Olsson said the 41-year-old son was found by a relative who then alerted authorities.

The woman has denied wrongdoing, Olsson said, adding that the son was admitted to a hospital to be treated for "the physical injuries he had when he was found."

"We cannot go into what type of injuries" he has, Olsson said.

Swedish newspaper Expressen said the man was found Sunday by a relative who had learned that the elderly woman had been admitted to a hospital. The relative went to the flat, found the main door unlocked and entered it.

Polish zoo captures rare mouse-deer birth on video

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — A zoo in Poland says it's the first to have captured on video the birth of a rare Philippine mouse-deer, and everyone's hoping it's a male so it can help the endangered species breed.

The night birth on Nov. 10 at 2:24 a.m. at the Wroclaw Zoo was filmed by a camera in the stall. It has given experts some knowledge on the mouse-deer's birth process and the first actions of a newborn, including that it begins to nurse quite quickly.

"It is a conservation milestone for this species," the head of the Wroclaw Zoo, Radosław Ratajszczak was quoted as saying in a statement Tuesday.

The naturally reclusive new mouse-deer is hiding from view and experts have not been able yet to determine its sex. They are hoping it's male, because among the 12 mouse-deer living in Europe's zoos there is only one confirmed male, named Johnny English, in Wroclaw. There are females in zoos in Chester, England, and in Rotterdam, in The Netherlands. That makes breeding difficult, given that the animals are very sensitive and experts are reluctant to make them travel.

Police: Man killed dad's cat with frying pan on Thanksgiving

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Police in Maine have arrested a man accused of killing his father's cat with a frying pan on Thanksgiving — a day after he was released on bail for a separate incident.

The Bangor Daily News reports that 43-year-old Ryan T. Carleton faces new charges including animal cruelty and violating the conditions of his previous release.

The Daily News reports that the man's father called police in Piscataquis County on Thursday to report that he had found his cat's body after he let his son stay with him the night before.

Carleton had been released on bail Wednesday following an arrest on charges that he stole his mother's car.

An address and phone number could not be located for Carleton, a former Guilford resident. It was not immediately clear whether he was represented by an attorney. He is being held pending a court hearing scheduled for Monday.

Life & Style

Roddy Ricch has Apple Music's top album, song of 2020

NEW YORK (AP)—Roddy Ricch is the king of Apple Music: The rapper has the music platform's most-streamed song and album of the year.

Apple announced Thursday that Ricch achieved the feat with his hit "The Box" and his debut album, "Please Excuse Me for Being Antisocial."

Rappers dominated the Top 5 most-streamed albums on Apple Music, with Lil Baby's "My Turn," Pop Smoke's "Shoot for the Stars Aim for the Moon" and Lil Uzi Vert's "Eternal Atake—LUV vs. The World 2" claiming spots two through four. R&B star Summer Walker's "Over It" came in fifth.

The Weeknd's "Blinding Lights" was the second most-streamed song of the year, followed by Australian singer Tones and I's "Dance Monkey," DaBaby and Ricch's "Rockstar" and "Life Is Good" by Future and Drake.

"Dance Monkey," originally released in 2019 but reached No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart this year, was the most Shazamed song of the year (Apple acquired Shazam in 2018). SAINt JHN's "Roses (Imanbek Remix)," the Weeknd's "Blinding Lights," Topic & A7S' "Breaking Me" and Regard's "Ride It" round out the Top 5.

Ranked by time spent viewing lyrics in Apple Music, Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion's raunchy hit "WAP" tops the list of most-read lyrics of 2020. Other songs in the Top 5 include "Dance Monkey," YOASOBI's "Yoru ni Kakeru," Ricch's "The Box" and Official HIGE DANdism "Pretender."

AP

Roddy Ricch performs at the 7th annual BET Experience in Los Angeles on June 21, 2019.

Gloria Estefan reveals she caught COVID-19, is now recovered

MIAMI (AP)—Singer and businesswoman Gloria Estefan said on Wednesday that she spent much of November in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19, days after dining outdoors at a Miami-area restaurant.

Estefan, 63, says she was fortunate, enduring only "a little bit of a cough" and dehydration after losing her sense of smell and taste, and has tested negative twice since recovering.

In a video shared on Instagram, the Cuban-born "Conga" singer says she was infected despite rigorously following public health protocols, and speculates that she could have been exposed by a fan who was not wearing a mask. The fan tapped on her shoulder and got very close to talk to her as she was dining with three family members, Estefan said.

"I was very lucky, but I just wanted to share with you that I was in quarantine, and one day I went out and met with one person who was not wearing a mask. I even held my breath through their talk, but something must have happened there," she said.

Estefan said she learned she had been infected after losing her sense of taste in early November, and then spent two weeks in total isolation on the second floor of her home. She credits vitamins—and possibly a low viral load from whomever infected her—for her ability to avoid the disease's worst impacts.

"Fear was my biggest problem," Estefan said. "We've got to grab fear and shake it and just do whatever you can to keep your immune system as healthy as you can."

Estefan, a Grammy-winning singer, has multiple business interests in South Florida, which has been heavily impacted by the pandemic. With her husband Emilio Estefan, she owns Cuban-themed restaurants, a Miami Beach hotel and a stake in the Miami Dolphins.

18 indicted, including rapper, in gang-related activity

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities on Tuesday announced the indictment of 18 people, including New York City rapper Casanova, in connection to a litany of gang-related crimes including racketeering, murder, drugs, firearms, and fraud offenses.

Acting U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss and other law enforcement officials issued a statement accusing those named in the indictment of being part of the Untouchable Gorilla Stone Nation gang, operating in New York City and part of New York state.

Authorities said 17 of the 18 named in the indictment were in custody. The FBI's New York office issued a tweet saying Casanova, whose legal name is Caswell Senior, was still being sought.

"Members of Gorilla Stone committed terrible acts of violence, trafficked in narcotics, and even engaged in brazen fraud by exploiting benefits programs meant to provide assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," Strauss said in the statement.

One of those indicted was accused in connection with the Sept. 21 killing of a minor in Poughkeepsie, New York. The others were indicted in connection to charges including assault, drug distribution and weapons possession. Two people were charged with falsely using other people's identity information to file for COVID-19 unemployment benefits.

Discovery's reality-heavy streaming service launches in Jan.

Discovery is joining the increasingly crowded streaming fray with its own reality-focused service Discovery Plus that will include shows from the Food Network, HGTV, TLC and its other networks. It launches Jan 4.

The service will cost $5 a month with ads and $7 a month without ads. By comparison, the ad-free Disney Plus costs $7 a month and Netflix' most popular plan costs $14 a month.

Each account will include up to five user profiles and support four concurrent streams. Discovery said the service will be available on "major platforms," connected TVs, web, mobile and tablets, but it didn't specify which services would carry it.

Discovery CEO David Zaslav first announced the streaming service in late 2019, but did not provide details until now.

Discovery has built a reality-TV empire with popular channels that feature reality programming, including the Discovery Channel, HGTV, Food Network, TLC, Investigation Discovery and others. Hit shows have included TLC's "90-Day Fiance," HGTV's "Fixer-Upper" and Guy Fieri's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" on the Food Network.

Tension with sister's fiance makes holiday outlook bleak

DEAR ABBY: I woke up crying this morning. The holidays are fast approaching, and many of them I spent with my younger sister "Leyla" and her family. It has been a tradition because our parents are no longer living, and my sisters live on the mainland.

Leyla's fiance doesn't care for me, so last year's celebration wasn't very fun, although I did enjoy my family. Her fiance and I have never had an argument nor have I ever said anything negative to him. He's insecure and wants Leyla to himself.

I was gone for the holidays in 2018 because I was caring for our elderly father. I hadn't been to their home for almost two years before that. During that time he had my sister all to himself. The last time I visited he wasn't nice to me. It didn't feel good.

Now, with this upcoming holiday season, I know I won't be invited to join them, which makes me sad and mad at the same time. My sister doesn't deal with life like I do. I am very family-oriented, and I would never let a man come between us. It breaks my heart knowing I won't be a part of their lives this year for the holidays. I'm 65, and Leyla is 61. We shouldn't be dealing with this kind of thing in our lives. What should I do?

SAD ISLAND LADY

DEAR SAD: Discuss this with Leyla and find out whether you will be invited to visit this year. Many families are distancing not because of personality conflicts but because of COVID. It may be possible to see your sister via Zoom or outside her home if you arrange to stay elsewhere.

If that isn't possible, make plans with friends and/or other relatives. Many people will be celebrating Christmas and New Year's differently this year. You will not be alone in that.

DEAR ABBY: My 16-year-old son passed away unexpectedly a month ago. Because he was short for his age, he had been bullied during middle and high school. After a minor argument with my husband and me, he contacted a neighborhood kid who sold him powerful painkillers. This was, to my knowledge, the first time he did this, and I don't think he realized how devastating the effects could be. (We had previously discussed the dangers of prescription drugs, but it seems this was an impulsive decision.)

My husband and 19-year-old daughter are reeling from this tragedy, and we're all in therapy now. I need to know if you have any advice on how to grieve. I'm feeling so lost and still in shock, and I have appreciated reading your advice over the years.

STILL IN SHOCK IN COLORADO

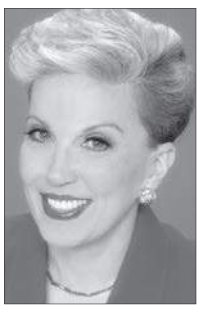
DEAR STILL: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your beloved son. The circumstances of his death make it even more difficult to understand and cope. Fortunately, there is help and support for families who have lost a sibling or a child.

The Compassionate Friends is a group I have mentioned before in my column. Founded 50 years ago in England and incorporated in the United States in 1978, it exists to provide friendship, understanding and hope to parents who are going through the natural grieving process. To find a chapter near you, contact them online at compassionatefriends.org or by calling 877-969-0010. Please don't wait.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

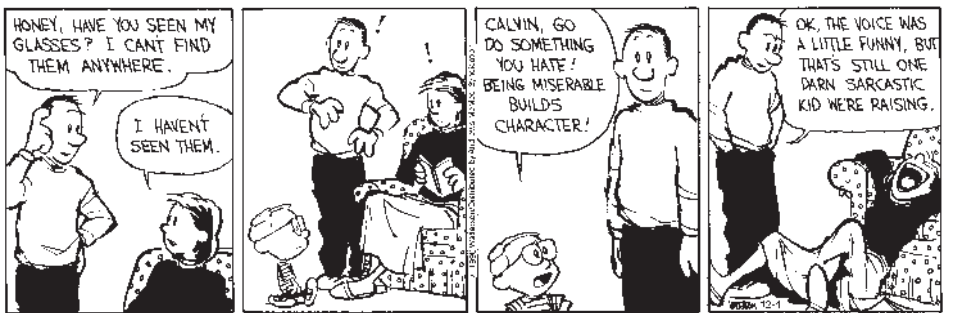


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HONEY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY GLASSES? I CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM.
CALVIN, GO DO SOMETHING YOU HATE! BEING MISERABLE BUILDS CHARACTER!
OK, THE VOICE WAS A LITTLE FUNNY, BUT THAT'S STILL ONE DARN SARCASTIC KID WE'RE RAISING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THANK YOU FOR CALLING CUSTOMER SERVICE
PRESS ONE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE THAT WILL NEVER BE RETURNED
OR PRESS TWO TO SPEAK TO A REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL NEVER ANSWER
AT LEAST THEY'RE HONEST
JIM DAVIS 12-4

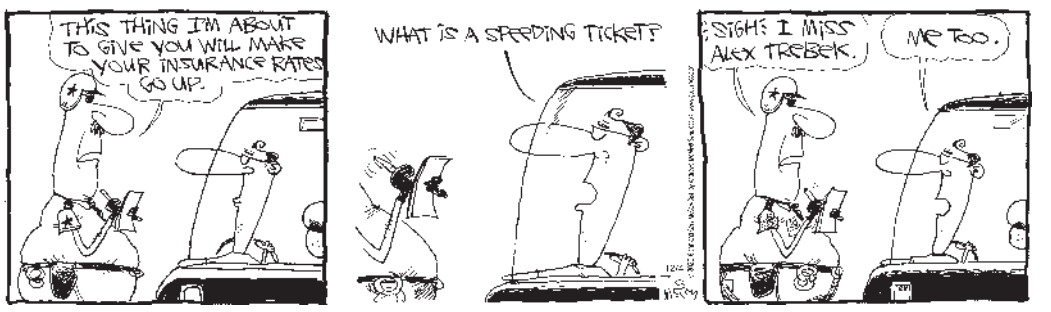
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM, YOU TRIED THE PURE CAFFEINE?
M-MAYBE.
J-JUST A P-PINCH. BUT B-BOY IS IT S-STRONG!
YOU'RE SHAKING. THIS ISN'T GOOD.
YOU NEED TO LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE.
OR I C-COULD FLY TO P-PARIS AND B-BACK!
FLAP FLAP
12-4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS THING I'M ABOUT TO GIVE YOU WILL MAKE YOUR INSURANCE RATES GO UP.
WHAT IS A SPEEDING TICKET?
SIGH! I MISS ALEX TREBEK.
ME TOO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Trench
4 Trucker with a handle
8 Falling-out
12 Docs' bloc
13 Opera house solo
14 Actress Falco
15 8 fluid ounces
17 Citi Field team
18 Green land
19 Brag
20 Bamboo eater
22 Aspiring atty.'s exam
24 Analogy words
25 Dog or cat
29 Common title start
30 Parisian river
31 Year in Madrid
32 Franklin D. Roosevelt's birthplace
34 Some TV screens
35 Decrease
36 Stab
37 Furniture polish scent
40 Body powder
41 Arsenal supply
42 Kitchenette cooker
46 Swampy goo
47 Medicinal plant
48 Fix illegally
49 Greek letters
50 "Dragnet" org.
51 — Paulo, Brazil

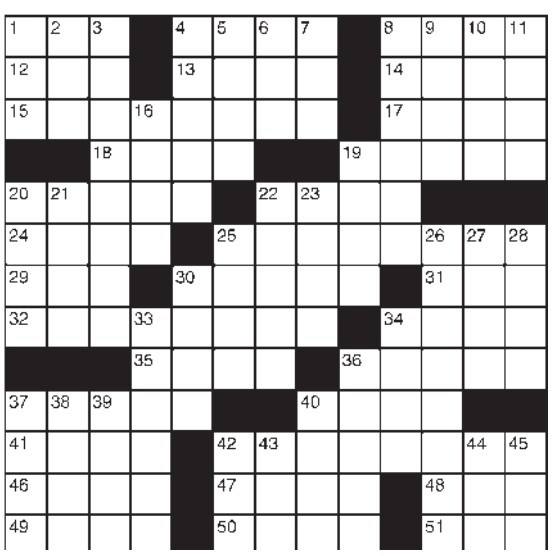
DOWN

1 Fan's cry
2 Hollywood's Thurman
3 Gifted
4 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
5 Party cheese
6 Aachen article
7 Snitch
8 Channel changer
9 Notion
10 Belongs
11 Try out
16 Rover's pal
19 Pyramid part
20 Essence
21 Wan
22 France's longest river
23 Gone to the bottom
25 Warmth
26 Tempo-setting race vehicles
27 Termini
28 Pitch
30 Bridge
33 Kindle downloads
34 Temporary calm
36 Stared in wonder
37 Genie's home
38 Flightless birds
39 2101, in old Rome
40 Corvette roof option
42 Actor Holbrook
43 Slangy suffix
44 Aunt, in Acapulco
45 Conceit

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	C	A	S		S	R	I		S	I	A	M
E	R	M	A		H	A	G		T	E	N	D
M	O	O	T		E	M	U		O	N	Y	X
I	C	I	C	L	E		A	R	I	A		
			H	O	T	A	N	D	C	O	L	D
A	L	P	E	N		M	A	S		L	Y	E
H	U	L	L		H	I	S		A	I	R	E
A	A	A		G	U	S		I	N	N	E	R
B	U	Y	A	N	D	H	O	L	D			
		L	O	J	O		S	L	A	N	T	S
H	A	I	H		L	E	A		N	E	H	O
E	R	S	T		E	N	G		T	R	O	N
M	E	T	A		S	E	E		E	D	D	Y

Yesterday's answer 12-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyra Banks, 47; Jay-Z, 51; Marisa Tomei, 56; Jeff Bridges, 71.

Happy Birthday: Use your intelligence and common sense when dealing with persuasive individuals. You have plenty to gain this year if you are smart, articulate and dare to follow your heart and do your own thing. Set the standard, and pace yourself to ensure you reach your goals. Make this a year to remember, and be proud of your achievements. Your numbers are 4, 12, 19, 24, 32, 35, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't stop when there is so much you can do to make things better. Strategize the best way to use your skills, knowledge and wherewithal to help you bring about the changes that will make you happy. Concentrate on personal gain. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You may have a plan in place, but uncertainty will set in if emotional issues prevail. Take care of unfinished business before you move forward. Discuss options and be clear about where you stand and what you are willing to do. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll have a better chance of getting your way if you are honest about how you feel and what you want to do. Handle partnerships with care, and offer a straightforward approach to finding solutions. You will avoid uncertainty and interference. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Spend more time cleaning up unfinished business and less time letting what's going on around you cause upset and discord. Focus on personal gains, a healthy lifestyle and easing stress. Close any gap that develops with someone you love with reassurance. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take the initiative to get things done. Speak up on your own behalf, as well as for others. Think and react, and you will take on the position of a leader. Be creative and respond to opposition with solutions, not anger. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be mindful of those you live with, but don't let them get away with something that isn't right. Honesty and integrity will win out if you handle matters diplomatically. A positive change to a meaningful relationship will unfold. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Spend more time gathering facts that will help you make an informed decision. Check with experts, friends, family and peers, and consider what will serve you best. Welcome a partnership with someone who shares your thoughts and feelings. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look for alternatives, and you will find a way to get things done without interference. A unique plan will strike an emotional chord with you and encourage you to do things differently. Verify information before you begin something. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Home improvements will turn out well and set the stage for family fun. How you use your energy will encourage others to follow suit. Turn uncertainty into confidence and make decisions that will bring you happiness. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An emotional incident will surface if you are insensitive. Listen to what's being said, and be mindful of the way others feel. A positive change you make will influence how you are treated by colleagues and those you love. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You can improve your position, status and reputation if you take charge and go after your goals. Set up interviews, offer proposals and use your persuasive charm to capture attention and turn your ideas into a reality. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Avoid persuasive situations and people. Look out for your interests, and be secretive regarding your plans. Someone will offer unreliable information that will cause uncertainty and confusion. Protect your money, possessions and passwords. Concentrate on personal gain and self-improvement. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, relentless and appealing. You are imaginative and dominant. *Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3					8			6
	4		3	2		9	7	
	5							
2				4			1	
	7						3	
	3			1				5
							4	
	6	7		8	9		2	
1			4					7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	7	9	2	5	4	8	6	3
6	5	2	9	3	8	1	7	4
8	4	3	6	7	1	9	5	2
4	3	6	5	8	9	2	1	7
9	1	5	3	2	7	6	4	8
2	8	7	1	4	6	3	9	5
7	2	1	8	6	5	4	3	9
5	6	8	4	9	3	7	2	1
3	9	4	7	1	2	5	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TRAUMA SURGEONS **Solution: 8 letters**

D	R	S	D	N	U	O	W	C	Ⓓ	C	I	D	E	M
P	I	E	L	O	O	T	D	Ⓐ	D	G	E	X	A	M
D	N	A	C	L	A	L	Ⓔ	R	E	E	C	E	C	S
E	T	E	G	O	A	Ⓗ	E	D	G	R	T	I	C	Y
G	R	D	U	N	R	F	L	I	A	I	C	A	H	C
L	A	N	I	M	O	D	B	A	I	A	N	P	I	A
O	N	P	S	S	O	S	S	C	R	T	A	C	S	L
V	S	H	I	R	C	T	T	O	T	R	T	I	R	M
I	P	I	O	U	E	H	H	I	G	I	R	N	E	D
N	L	J	N	P	S	T	A	O	C	C	A	J	D	Y
G	A	C	U	T	E	B	N	R	R	C	E	U	A	B
M	N	E	S	U	E	O	R	E	G	A	H	R	E	L
S	T	A	B	R	S	N	N	A	C	E	X	E	L	U
T	L	L	A	E	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L	S	N
B	M	S	I	L	O	B	M	E	S	N	R	U	B	T

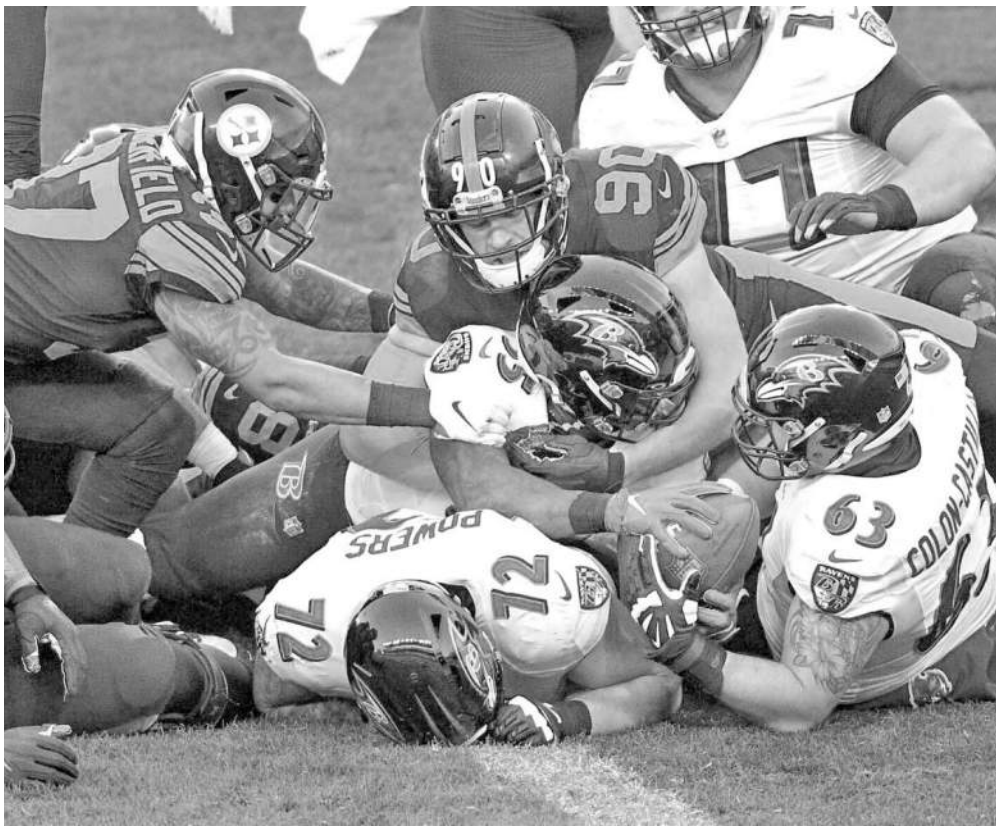
© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/4

Abdominal, Acute, Blasts, Bleed, Blunt, Brain, Burns, Calm, Cardiac, Centers, Chest, Degloving, Detail, Diagnostic, Discharge, Embolism, Exam, Falls, Geriatric, Head, Heal, Heart, Hope, Hospitals, Injure, Intense, Leaders, Major, Medic, Pneumothorax, Records, Rupture, Scan, Sonography, Spinal, Stab, Team, Thoracic, Tool, Transplant, Triage, Wounds, X-ray

Yesterday's Answer: Double O Seven

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 57** in time for the holidays. Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Steelers overcome Ravens to keep perfect record



AP
Baltimore Ravens running back Gus Edwards (35) gets in the end zone with a touchdown under Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker T.J. Watt (90) for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL game, Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, in Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Mike Tomlin isn't one for excuses. Even as COVID-19 wreaked havoc with his team's schedule, pushing their matchup with Baltimore from Thanksgiving night to middle of the afternoon in the middle of the week in the middle of a pandemic, the longtime Pittsburgh Steelers coach refused to reach for one.

So while the Steelers stayed perfect with a disjointed 19-14 win over the undermanned Ravens in the first NFL game on a Wednesday in eight years, their play was anything but. And Tomlin knows it.

"To be bluntly honest, I'm really disappointed in our performance tonight," he said after Pittsburgh improved to 11-0. "We did enough to win tonight, that's all."

Calling it "junior varsity"-level play, Tomlin seethed in the aftermath, a testament to both how high the bar is set and just how far the Steelers came from clearing it.

Asked about an offense that managed just one touchdown in four trips to the red zone—missed opportunities that allowed the Ravens (6-5) to hang around until the final minutes—Tomlin didn't offer analysis as much as rage.

"Us sucking," he said, declining to get into specifics.

There really was no need to.

The Steelers turned it over twice, once on a fourth-down heave into the end zone by Ben Roethlisberger, the other a fumbled punt by Ray-Ray McLoud that set up a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Gus Edwards. They let Baltimore backup quarterback Robert Griffin III briefly turn back the clock to his 2012 Rookie of the Year season and looked at times like a team in the middle of ho-hum midweek practice—which, to be fair, Wednesdays typically are—rather than a showdown with its longtime rivals.

"Obviously we won, but it sure doesn't feel like it," said Roethlisberger, whose 1-yard strike to JuJu Smith-Schuster early in the fourth quarter gave the Steelers a 12-point lead they flirted with squandering. "Just not good football. It starts with me. It's a mental game, it's been a challenging and draining week but at the end of the day we need to step on the field and play good football when it's time."

Pittsburgh didn't for long stretches, though some of the credit goes to a spirited effort from the Ravens. Running onto Heinz Field missing more than a dozen players on the reserve/COVID-19 list, including reigning NFL MVP Lamar Jackson and running backs Mark Ingram and J.K. Dobbins, Baltimore didn't exactly roll over.

While Griffin completed just 7 of 12 passes for 33 yards and a first-quarter Pick-6 by Joe Haden that gave the Steelers an early lead, Griffin ran for a game-high 68 yards before leaving in the fourth quarter with a left hamstring injury. Trace McSorley, one of 11 players promoted from the practice squad, came on and connected with Marquise Brown for a 70-yard touchdown with 2:58 to go. But the Steelers were able to drain the clock behind a third-down grab by James Washington, eliminating the Ravens from repeating as AFC North champions.

"The way the game went, obviously we wanted to win," Griffin said. "We felt like we had a chance to come in here and win, shock the world and do something special. I put it on myself. I feel like if I didn't pull my hamstring in the second quarter we would have won. It was really emotional trying to fight through that. I feel like I let my guys down."

A COVID-19 outbreak in Baltimore forced the NFL to push the game back three times: first from Thanksgiving to Sunday, then from Sunday to Tuesday, and eventually from Tuesday to Wednesday. The teams kicked off in the afternoon to not interfere with NBC's annual Christmas special at Rockefeller Center.

Good idea. The fewer eyeballs on this one the better.

While NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell called it "a great game," the product on the field suggested otherwise.

The Ravens couldn't pass. Pittsburgh's receivers couldn't catch. And a contest that looked like a mismatch—the Steelers went off as 10 1/2-point favorites, a rarity in a rivalry that is one of the NFL's best—was instead a festival of blah.

Holyfield calls out Tyson for third bout

CALIFORNIA—Evander Holyfield called out Mike Tyson on Tuesday, saying it was time the two former undisputed heavyweight champions returned to the ring to cap their rivalry and settle legacies.

Holyfield's challenge comes after 54-year-old Tyson dominated Roy Jones Jr, 51, in an exhibition fight on Saturday in Los Angeles that was ruled a draw.

Calling the bout with Jones Jr "a tune-up" Holyfield taunted Tyson, urging him to give the world the fight they want to see.

"No more excuses," said Holyfield in a statement. "This is the fight that must happen for both our legacies. Saturday night you said you were ready to fight me, so sign the contract and get in the ring, Tyson. The world is waiting and it's on you now. I'm ready."

In their prime Tyson and Holyfield, who is now 58, were two of boxing's biggest draws.

They met twice with Holyfield winning the first fight in an 11th round TKO, while the second ended in controversy when Tyson was disqualified for biting a chunk out of his opponent's ear.

When Tyson said earlier this year he was getting ready to return to the ring for a charity exhibition bout Holyfield put his hand up but the promoters opted for Jones Jr instead.

"My side tried to make the fight happen and we got nothing but excuses," said Holyfield. "Now I can see why he wanted a tune-up fight before thinking about fighting me."

"Roy Jones was a good local opponent for Mike but a fight with me would be a global event and the only fight that anyone wants to see is a fight between us. There is absolutely no reason why we shouldn't make it happen," Holyfield added.

Tyson and Holyfied are attached at the hip, as they have been since they were teenagers and each battling for a spot on the 1984 U.S. Olympic team. They were first scheduled to fight as pros on Nov. 18, 1991, but Tyson went to prison and that was canceled. If Tyson is to fight again, Holyfield is the only one that makes much sense. ***(NBC)***

HOLIDAY MUST-HAVES!
LG UHD TV
$11.95/week
43" 4K SMART TV
• True Color Accuracy
• WebOS + LG Channels
• 3 HDMI Inputs & 2 USB Ports
Holiday Specials!
LG UHD TV
$24.95/week
70" 4K SMART TV
• Upscaling HD Display
• Advance Color Enhancer
• 3 HDMI Inputs & 2 USB Ports
• WebOS, LG Channels, Sports Alerts
$17.95/week
15.6" HP Notebook
• USB, HDMI, & AC Smart Pin Ports
• Intel Core i5-1035G1 Processor
• 8GB Built-in Memory Storage
$19.95/week
Nintendo Switch
• Play Local & Online!
• 3 Gaming Style Modes
• 32GB of Internal Storage
Special Offer!
$16.95/week
JBL Party Box 100
• 160Watt Power
• Wireless Bluetooth
• Up to 12hrs of Battery Life
• Multi-Colored LED Lights
$14.95/week
Samsung A21S
• 6.5" Infinity-O Display
• Quad Camera
• Octa-Core Processor
*This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95x12months = $517.40. Some restrictions apply, see store for details.
NO CREDIT NEEDED
MIDDLE ROAD | 234-RENT
CHALAN KANOA | 234-DIAL
DIAL Rent-to-Own

Westbrook, Wall switch teams; LeBron OKs extension

HOUSTON (AP)—Russell Westbrook is headed to the Washington Wizards and John Wall is moving to the Houston Rockets in a significant swap of point guards — one an MVP, the other a No. 1 overall draft pick—just weeks before the season starts.

The Wizards shipped a future lottery-protected first round pick to the Rockets on Wednesday night.

"Having the opportunity to acquire a player of Russell's caliber and character was something that we could not pass up when looking at both the immediate and long-term future of our team," Wizards general manager Tommy Sheppard said in a release. "With that said, the decision to part ways with John, one of the greatest players in franchise history, was extremely difficult. What he has meant to our organization and our community is immeasurable and will not be forgotten."

While Wall has played his entire professional career in the nation's capital, the move ends Westbrook's tenure in Houston after just one disappointing season. He arrived from Oklahoma City in July 2019 for Chris Paul and draft picks.

The Rockets had hoped that the 32-year-old Westbrook would be the final piece they needed to win their first title since winning back-to-back championships in 1994-95. But instead, Houston was eliminated from the playoffs by the eventual champion Los Angeles Lakers in the Western semifinals. Westbrook was the 2017 NBA MVP and is a nine-time All-Star, but has failed to win a title.

Many questioned whether the pairing of two ball-dominant guards like Westbrook and James Harden would work in Houston, but the longtime friends insisted that it would. After the Rockets were sent home from the playoffs early again, rumors started to swirl that the two weren't happy in Houston and both wanted out.

But after spending years building their entire team around Harden, who won MVP honors in 2018, the Rockets weren't interested in parting with him. This move could be new general manager Rafael Stone's way of appeasing Harden so the Rockets can continue their quest for a title this season instead of rebuilding without the superstar. Stone was promoted to GM last month after Daryl Morey stepped down before quickly taking a job with the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Westbrook-Wall deal works under the NBA's rules because the two players are owed about the same amount: Each gets more than $80 million over the next two seasons, plus each has a player option of more than $45 million for 2022-23.

And both were looking to move on.

Wall, the No. 1 overall pick out of Kentucky in the 2010 draft, became the face of the franchise for Washington, a five-time All-Star who repeatedly helped get his team to the playoffs.

But Wall's Wizards never reached 50 wins in a season or made it past the conference semifinals.

Wall, who is 30, has averaged 19 points and 9.2 assists for his career.

He has been troubled by injuries of late, appearing in only 41 games in 2017-18 because of left knee surgery, then just 32 in 2018-19 because of a left heel problem that required an operation. While recovering from that, Wall tore his left Achilles tendon and sat out all of last season.

After a report surfaced that Wall wanted out of Washington, Sheppard said on Nov. 23 that Wall "didn't request" to be moved when they spoke that morning.

"There's no plans to trade John," Sheppard said during a video conference with reporters that day.

He said he and Wall speak "pretty much every other day" and characterized their relationship as "very, very close."

"There's no issues with John and I," Sheppard said then. "There's no issues with John and the Wizards."

But he also reaffirmed that his plan is to build around shooting guard Bradley Beal, whose scoring average of 30.5 points last season was second in the league behind Harden.

After a stretch of getting to the postseason four times in five years, Washington has missed the playoffs each of the past two seasons, losing 47 games last season and 50 the season before.

Hall of Famer Magic Johnson believes the pairing of Beal and Westbrook will be what the Wizards need to be a contender in the Eastern Conference.

"Everyone now has to watch out for the Wizards! They traded for Russell Westbrook today," Johnson tweeted. "(Westbrook)/(Beal) will terrorize the East and make the Wizards a playoff team."

Wall was beloved in Washington and team owner Ted Leonsis lauded the player and his contributions to the team and city in a series of tweets Wednesday night.

"He has been a great, all-star caliber player and a fantastic citizen and leader in our community," Leonsis wrote. "I am proud of how hard John has worked to come back to the league after two years away from competing. Our fans, our franchise and I will miss him very much."

AP

Russell Westbrook, right, is going to the Washington Wizards and John Wall is moving to the Houston Rockets in a significant swap of point guards last Wednesday.

Lakers out of Giannis sweepstakes

LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers have reached an agreement on a two-year, $85 million contract extension that runs through the 2022-23 season, his agent Rich Paul of Klutch Sports said.

James owned a $41 player option for the 2021-22 season that could have made him a free agent next summer. That will be torn up in favor of a slight raise in 2021-22 and $44.5 million guaranteed in 2022-23.

The contract will see James through his 38th birthday and 20th NBA season. His 2023 free agency could also coincide with the draft year of his oldest son, Bronny James.

The news of James' extension came as a surprise on Wednesday, if only because his Lakers teammate and fellow Klutch client Anthony Davis has yet to sign his contract. Davis is currently a free agent, and his return to the Lakers is a foregone conclusion. He is reportedly mulling a decision on the length of his max deal.

The possibility remains that Davis could also sign through 2023. That would essentially rule the Lakers out of the potential Giannis Antetokounmpo sweepstakes in 2021 free agency. Were Davis to structure a deal to opt into 2021 free agency, the Lakers could find ways to pursue a third max-contracted star next summer.

As new season approaches, 48 players tested positive

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA said Wednesday that 48 players have tested positive for the coronavirus since testing resumed last week.

The league and National Basketball Players Association said 546 players were tested between Nov. 24-30 in the initial phase of testing after returning to team markets. That means about 9% of the tests were positive.

Any player with a confirmed positive test is isolated until cleared by rules established by the league and union, in accordance with CDC guidance. The league's health and safety protocols for this season say that anyone with a positive test in this pre-camp phase "must receive medical clearance from a team-designated physician and a league-designated physician prior to entering a team facility, participating in in-person team-organized activities, or interacting in-person with other" members of their team.

The league, in its preseason guidance to teams sent late last week, made clear that some players testing positive was to be expected.

"During this pandemic, all this stuff is going to be different this season," Dallas All-Star Luka Doncic said Tuesday. "Some players might get corona, get sick, not be able to be with the team for 10 days. So, I think that's going to be a big part—which team is not going to have positive people. It's going to be a lot of time together. I think that's going to be key."

Players needed three negative PCR tests between Nov. 24-30 before they could be cleared to start individual workouts, which will last throughout this week. A handful of teams are expected to be cleared to start group sessions or 5-on-5 practices Friday, most others on Sunday and Golden State will on Monday.

Anyone with a confirmed positive test will also need to successfully complete a cardiac exam before being able to return to play. It's a possibility that some of the 48 positive players would not be cleared before the NBA's preseason schedule starts Dec. 11. The regular season begins on Dec. 22.

"I'm confident that the league is going to do everything in their power to do things the right way and to protect us, protect the players and the staffs. Then, who the hell knows?" Golden State coach Steve Kerr said Tuesday, prior to the Warriors revealing that two players had positive tests. "I mean, it's 2020. I think we just have to go into it with an open mind and do our best and see what happens."

The NBA had no players test positive once they entered the bubble at Walt Disney World for the season restart near Orlando, Florida last July. A very small number of individuals tested positive after arriving at Disney but before they were released from quarantine and into the bubble, a sign that the NBA pointed to as proof that its system worked.

SOURING

From Page 32

Jones' number in the scheduled eight-round affair.

Jones did display his patented okie-doke from time to time against Tyson, but visibly was a tired a fighter as the rounds went on. Tyson should've won that fight with plenty to spare, but guess what, the boxer who in the past swore to "eat his children" and even bit part of rival Evander Hollyfield's ear has truly mellowed and said he's "alright" with the decision.

On Paul-Robinson fight, props for the former for really training for the boxing match, as he totally embarrassed the former NBA player who was knocked out unconscious in the second round of the "co-main event" scheduled for six rounds.

Robinson obviously didn't take the fight seriously and thought he could just waltz into the ring and take out the famous Youtuber without breaking into sweat. Before he chose basketball, the 5'9" Robinson was a cornerback for the University of Washington and could've been drafted in the NFL if he continued to pursue the sport.

Alas, boxing is a totally different animal and it's not called the sweet science for nothing. Simply put, you cannot just out-athlete anyone in boxing as you need some smarts too, as Jake Paul so clearly showed against Robinson in a crowd-less night last Nov. 28 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The Tyson-Jones and Paul-Robinson boxing matches, albeit deemed exhibitions, typify the sad and sorry state of the sport of boxing. Unlike during its heyday when Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, and Tommy Hearns were household names, the average sports fan today will struggle to name the current world boxing champions.

Athletes would rather turn pro in basketball, baseball, football, or even MMA rather than have your head bashed in boxing (Although you could argue a different kind of head bashing happens in football). That's the reason most boxing champions today hail from the poorer parts of the world, as the sport is viewed as their ticket to fame and fortune. But let's face it not everyone can be my kababayan (countryman) Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao.

When exhibition boxing matches between two over 50-year-old has-beens and a Youtuber and a fading basketball star gets more attention than officially sanctioned boxing events, then your sport is really in trouble.

So, this is what Rome was like at the twilight of the empire when gladiatorial combat pitting man vs. man, lion vs. elephant, and even man vs beast were the norm.

To prove my earlier point, Alexander Povetkin, Mahmoud Charr, and Trevor Bryan currently hold world heavyweight championship belts in boxing.

SGA

From Page 32

vember Ace—will be held this Sunday, starting at 9am on the west course of the Kagman facility.

Manibusan, Tudela, Krishnan, Ed (August winner) and Nick Sablan (March), and Juan "Pan" Guerrero (April) have already earned entries to the SGA Ace of Aces along with Jung Eun Teack (February), Larry Deleon Guerrero (June), Steve Balakrishna (July), and John "Nanni" Cruz (September).

MLB teams cut 59 players in pandemic fallout

NEW YORK (AP)—Kyle Schwarber and Albert Almora Jr. were cut loose by the Chicago Cubs after helping the team win its first World Series title in more than a century, among 59 players who became free agents as part of the fallout from the coranavirus pandemic when their teams declined to offer them 2021 contracts by Wednesday night's deadline.

Cincinnati reliever Archie Bradley, Atlanta outfielder Adam Duvall, Colorado outfielder David Dahl and Minnesota outfielder Eddie Rosario also were let go by their clubs, who did not want to allow those players to become eligible for salary arbitration in February, which would have been their right had they been tendered contracts.

Schwarber earned $2,596,296 in prorated pay from his $7.01 million salary last season but hit .188 with 11 homers in 59 games, down from 38 homers, 92 RBIs and a .250 batting average in 155 games in 2019.

Almora batted .167 in 28 games last season and earned $1,667,667 prorated from $4.5 million, down from a .236 average, 12 homers and 32 RBIs in 2019.

Schwarber returned from a serious knee injury and hit .412 with two RBIs in the 2016 World Series as the Cubs won their first championship since 1908. He served as the designated hitter for games in Cleveland.

Almora made a key play in Game 7, running for Schwarber in the 10th inning, advancing on Kris Bryant's fly ball and scoring the go-ahead run on Ben Zobrist's double in an 8-7 victory.

Just 137 players remained eligible to exchange salary arbitration numbers with their teams on Jan. 15, down from 155 on the eve of the deadline last January.

While the total number of players let go at the deadline was up only a bit from 56 last year, more high-quality players were set free by teams, many trying to cut expenses after a regular season that included a sharp revenue drop because no fans were allowed in stadiums due to health conditions.

NMI

From Page 32

dent-athlete in college. From financial support to high-quality academic programs and athletic scholarships. These are just a few benefits a college student-athlete has access to," said Costales, a many-time national team member.

Saipan International School student Julianne Hall also attended the virtual meeting with the KCC coach and was pleased that she did, as she really has plans to continue her soccer journey in college.

"I'm interested in playing collegiate soccer and this meeting was very informative. I'm new to the process and all, so it was helpful," the MP United Football Club member said.

"I think that players here are getting more interested in playing collegiate soccer and fortunately, NMIFA is there to support all the players. Thanks to these opportunities a lot more players can have the chance to continue playing and studying at the same time," Hall said.

Ito, meanwhile, encouraged the Commonwealth's female players to take advantage of opportunities like this.

"Unlike our mainland counterparts, we don't have the luxury of wide-range exposure to the collegiate ranks. Scouts can't simply fly out on a weekly, monthly, or even yearly basis to watch our local leagues or trainings. To have a scout reach out to us, especially at these difficult times, is something our players and their parents should really look into and capitalize on," said Ito, who served as the women's national team's assistant coach and manager in previous tournaments and currently supervises the training pool's practice sessions.

Costales, who was joined in the online meeting by fellow U19 players Jannah Casarino, Stephanie Flores, Khristelle Itaas, Krizel Tuazon, Britanny Wally, and Marinel Falalimpa, acknowledged the arduous process that student-athletes need to go through to jump into the collegiate ranks. However, she reiterates that the benefits of making it to the team and working on a degree will definitely be worth it in the long run.

KCC is part of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Western Conference. The Bruin also plays in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Region 12. The KCC coach is a former pro soccer player for the Romanian club Astra Ploiesti and used to be the executive director of Kalamazoo Soccer Club. Salivia took over the coaching post with the Bruin in the fall season last year and serves as KCC's Physical Education program coordinator.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kellogg Community College head coach Eieri Jordan Salivia virtually joins CNMI female players, their parents, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association coaching staff member Angie Ito, left, for a group photo after a presentation at the NMIFA office late last month.

Steelers overcome Ravens to keep perfect record

PAGE 29

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Westbrook, Wall switch teams; LeBron OKs extension

PAGE 30

Collegiate soccer door opens for NMI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A coach from a collegiate soccer team has reached out to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and presented opportunities for the CNMI's female players.

Eieri Jordan Salivia, the head coach of Kellogg Community College, had a virtual meeting with eight players from the Commonwealth's national training pool and NMIFA coaching staff member Angie Ito late last month to discuss the Bruin's program. At the meeting, which was also attended by the parents of three players, Salivia talked about the academic and athletic opportunities that KCC can offer to the islands' players.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, the CNMI's Katrina Costales, left, steps in to play defense against a Macau player during their game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Katrina Costales, one of the eight players that talked to the KCC coach, said the presentation was very encouraging.

"I'm really grateful that we got the opportunity to connect with recruiting coaches in the mainland. Players in the CNMI are still unfamiliar with the college recruiting process and I think it's a great eye opener and motivating to know that we are eligible for this opportunity to play soccer in the collegiate level," the Marianas High School senior said.

"The presentation was very informative and it helped me expand my knowledge and options in pursuing the sport at a higher level. There are so many benefits of being a stu-

See NMI on Page 31

SGA awards October Ace to Tudela

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alex Tudela was one of the only two Saipan Golfers Association members to shoot net scores in the 60s during the October Ace tournament, allowing him to take the monthly award.

Tudela, who holds a handicap of 11, carded a 42 on the front nine of the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and 38 on the back for a gross 80 and net 69. Matching Tudela's net score in the 60s was Das Krishnan, who topped the Nov. 22 competition with his 64, but was disqualified from winning the October Ace, as the latter had already secured the May plum.

The 13-handicapper Krishnan posted a 38 in the first nine holes and 39 in the last for a gross 77 . He and Tudela were then joined in the Top 3 by January Ace winner and CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan, who owns a 9 handicap and registered a net 72 after making a 40 and 41 on the front and back nines for a gross 81.

Meanwhile, in the closest to the pin contest of last month's event, Tudela won on the 160-yard No. 4, while Krishnan prevailed on the 154-yard No. 6, Nick Sablan on the 174-yard No. 11, and Ed Sablan on the 125-yard No. 15.

For the longest drive event, Tony Deleon Guerrero delivered on the par-4, 372-yard No. 7 and Juan "Pan" Guerrero had the same feat on the par-5, 506-yard No. 18.

With the October Ace done, SGA is left with two monthly competitions before holding the club championship, which is dubbed as Ace of Aces tournament. The penultimate monthly event—the No-

See SGA on Page 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Alex Tudela, center, seen here flanked by two Senior Flight players during a local tournament in 2018, won the Saipan Golfers Association October Ace.

Souring on the sweet science

MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

At least Butterbean in his heart of hearts believed he wasn't just a sideshow.

Not that I'm a party-pooper but I really didn't feel for the recent exhibition boxing match pitting former undisputed heavyweight world champion Mike Tyson against former four-division world champion Roy Jones Jr.

The undercard between Youtuber Jake Paul and three-timer NBA Slam Dunk champion Nate Robinson was also underwhelming at best and has truly soured me on the sweet science of boxing.

First, the Tyson-Jones disaster that ended in a draw, but since it's an exhibition let's just call it a tie. Two thumbs up for Tyson for coming into the fight in terrific shape, which can't be said for Jones who looked like he's been retired more than the actual three years.

Despite not stepping into the ring since 2005, Tyson showed semblance of the most fearsome boxer that ever laced them up. Minus his patented uppercut, which he promised not to throw since it's an exhibition, Tyson clearly had

See SOURING on Page 31

AP
In a photo provided by Triller, Mike Tyson hits Roy Jones Jr. during the third round of an exhibition boxing bout Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, in Los Angeles.